



Carnival time in Porthcawl!
(See page 11).

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THURSDAY, JULY 30TH, 2009

'We are led to believe there's a close relationship between BCBC and us, but that's not the case here...'

'No consultation over the fees for pavement cafés' – says town councillor

BRIDGEND
Town Council is to monitor the pilot scheme to license tables and chairs, signs and goods placed on pavements in the town centre.

Earlier this month, The GEM exclusively revealed that the borough council is running an experiment in issuing licences to businesses to enable them to place items on pavements.

Although the pilot project will be free, traders will have to pay once the trial is over.

The fee for tables and chairs and goods is likely to be £205 to apply, and then £75 a year for the licence; with A-frame signs having to pay £145 to apply, £75 for the licence and a further £330 for planning permission.

Coun David Unwin was "surprised" the town

by **JAYNE ISAAC**

council had not been consulted in any way by the borough before this scheme was agreed.

"We are led to suppose that there's a close relationship between BCBC and us but that's not the case here."

"As this scheme will affect all areas in future, I feel it is an item that should have gone to the Town and Community Council forum for their views – but it went straight to cabinet and has been decided."

"It's not even being discussed by other members of the borough council," he asserted.

Coun Unwin, who is also a borough councillor, said he did not get a copy of the report that went to cabinet, although every back-bench councillor is supposed to see these reports.

"I had to read about this in the Press. It will

take place without any discussion at all. It will make a fundamental change to the way the town centre is run."

He said that he was not against some regulation: "I counted 81 A-frame boards in the town centre and something needs to be done to regulate them."

"It is unbelievable that they had been allowed to proliferate like this."

However, he said the pavement cafés were a different issue: "We have started to create an ambience in the town and I don't feel that they have caused any problems. I have not heard about people falling over the tables and chairs, or that there's been any problem."

"I am also concerned about the level of fees being proposed. That's something we should comment on."

"I had to read about this in the Press. It will

"We are entitled to make a comment on this scheme," he insisted.

Coun Bob Burns felt there should have been consultation: "The A-frame boards are causing some concern and they cause obstruction to people wanting free passage along the streets."

He pointed out that the council was using powers originally approved 29 years ago but never enforced until now.

Coun Mervyn Lewis stated that most A-frame signs would disappear as a result of the fees being contemplated.

Coun Unwin suggested that the town council write to BCBC and ask to be kept informed of how the scheme progresses.

"We also want a report-back before any final decisions are taken so that we can comment on its findings. This has been put into place, but we were not in on the ground floor."

*This was agreed.
(SEE PAGE 3)*

Toddler's drugs death: Bridgend couple jailed

TWO parents have been jailed after a tragic toddler was killed when he drank their drug medication by mistake, at their Bridgend home.

Little Dylan Hughes (aged two) grabbed the liquid methadone and swallowed the lethal dose – believing it was an ordinary fruit drink.

Newport Crown Court last week heard it was one of 42 bottles of the bright green heroin substitute left within reach of the curious toddler.

His drug addict parents Krystal Jones (26), and Paul Hughes (31), admitted causing the

death of a child by leaving Dylan unsupervised with the methadone.

Prosecutor Robin Spencer QC, said: "It was neglect to expose their son to methadone.

Both were heroin addicts receiving methadone lawfully from their pharmacist.

Dylan was two years and two months old when he ingested a significant amount of methadone. He collapsed and they immediately contacted emergency services, but he died the next day.

A large number of methadone bottles and containers were found lying around in easy reach of a two-year-old.

"There were 76 suicide by taking a cocktail of drugs and alcohol a month after Dylan died.

Both were jailed for 12 months for causing or

allowing the death of a child. Hughes was given an extra four months after admitting drugs offences.

Nicholas Cooke QC, Recorder of Cardiff, said: "The real hate figures who are responsible for this child's death and countless other deaths and suffering are drug dealers."

Emergency services were called to the couple's home in Bridgend, when Dylan became ill minutes after drinking the drug.

He was taken to the Newport Crown Court heard social services were not involved with the family, despite both being registered heroin addicts.

The court heard Jones and Hughes attempted to expose to heroin, cannabis and diazepam.

Police target a 'worrying rise' in town burglaries

P O R T H C A W L
police have launched a crackdown to combat a 'worrying rise in town burglaries.'

Neighbourhood Police Inspector Alan James said: "We have seen a worrying increase in the number of dwelling burglaries in recent weeks.

"These have been to empty homes where the householders are away on holiday, or insecure houses where doors or windows have been left open or unlocked.

"We have mounted an operation which will include visits to victims of burglary, identifying vulnerable premises, the distribution of information and nominations for the handy van scheme.

"Police officers will also target and stop search potential suspects while on patrol.

"Our Neighbourhood Policing Teams will concentrate on raising residents' awareness of home security, identification of vulnerable premises, and targeting of potential offenders," he added.

Council will not oppose cinema demolition plan

BRIDGEND Town Council is to raise no objections to plans to demolish the former Embassy Cinema.

Plans have been lodged with Bridgend County Borough Council to knock down the old cinema and use the site as a temporary car park.

The Embassy was built in 1939 in the Art Deco style, and remained the town's premier cinema until the 1980s, when it became a bingo hall. It has been disused for the past 10 years.

Coun David Unwin said that his own view was that the building, in its present state, did nothing for the town.

"It cannot stay like this indefinitely.

Something has to be done. It is unreasonable to expect the interior to be refurbished. It is no longer as people will remember it from its heyday as a cinema.

"The sheer passage of time has made it derelict. It is now a shell of a building."

Mr Unwin said that longer term, there was a plan to develop the site for either retail, hotel or multi-storey car park use.

"But finance for this has to be available."

The question of the former Riverside hardware store was also raised as this stands nearby – but Coun Unwin said he believed it belonged to a different owner and was nothing to do with the present application.

Bridgend MP says: 'I'm no turncoat'

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has

defended herself against 'turncoat' charges

over the extradition of computer hacker Gary McKinnon.

SEE PAGE 20 FOR HER RESPONSE.

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TIME TO CRACK DOWN ON DRIVERS WHO MISUSE THE DISABLED BADGES

THE blue badge scheme has been a great help to many people over the years.

From its original origins as an orange badge, it has provided disabled people with the ability to park close to places where they want to visit.

In fact, there are more than 9,000 blue badge holders in Bridgend who would be lost without it.

Yet I believe that many of these badges are being abused.

Let's start with the supermarkets:

Readers of this column will know that I've been critical of some supermarkets

in the past for their unwillingness to police the disabled spaces that they mark out in their car parks.

How many times have we seen people ignore the fact that a space is set aside for a blue badge holder because they are too lazy to walk an extra 10 yards to the shop?

I'm still not convinced that the supermarkets are doing much to protect these spaces.

In Bridgend, though, we also have the spaces allocated on Station Hill and around the Embassy.

I get regular complaints about people parking there who don't have badges or who overstay their

time. I've been around with our traffic wardens and I know it's difficult to be everywhere at once.

Yet I'm willing to bet that many of these people who park in disabled spaces aren't disabled, and are simply using someone else's badge.

Part of the problem lies in the badge's design, which requires the side with the photograph to be put down on the dashboard.

People who use someone else's badge are committing a serious offence which could not only get them into trouble, but the badge holder

as well. On top of that, they're taking up a space that should be there for someone who genuinely needs it.

Last week, I had a meeting with the police about this issue and they recognise this as a problem.

What we need is a crackdown on misuse of these badges in the parking spaces around town.

By focusing on this for a few weeks it will get the message across to the more selfish drivers that they can't use someone else's badge to occupy a disabled space.

They should also be prosecuted for what they are doing.

I would like to see this clampdown start soon – but, of course, no advance warning should be given of it.

Some people might see this as going over the top, or will argue that there are more pressing matters for the police to deal with.

I think this is a pressing matter, though. By taking up disabled spaces, drivers misusing badges are forcing people to park further away or even deterring people from coming into town in the first place.

Dealing with this issue would bring more people into town, would help those who have mobility problems, and would ensure that those tempted to use a badge are kept honest.

Assembly Notes



by CARWYN JONES, AM for Bridgend, Counsel General and Leader of the House.

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend
Westminster office - 02072194417
Constituency office - 47, Nolton Street, Bridgend.
Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm. Telephone 01656 750002

HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore

Constituency Office 01656 737777

JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore

Constituency Office 01656 860034

CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend

Constituency office 01656 664320

Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales

Telephone 01639 643549

BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open to personal callers: Tuesday-Friday 10am-12.30pm or telephone service: Monday-Friday 10am-12.30pm.

MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau 01656 734662

POLICE Bridgend 01656 655555

Porthcawl 01656 785411

Maesteg 01656 732122

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111

(Emergency number 999)

COASTGUARD 01792 366534

GAS (escapes and emergency) 0800 111999

ELECTRICITY (power cuts) 0800 0520400

WATER SUPPLY (emergency) 0800 0520130

FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188

HELPLINES

Alcohol and drugs:

Drinkline 0800 9178282

National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

DASH 01656 650686

SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need 01656 785435

RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522

SAMARITANS (emotional support) 01656 662333

MENTAL DISTRESS

(Mental Health Matters) 01656 767045

CHILDLINE 0800 1111

NSPCC 0800 800500

RSPCA 0300 123 0744

WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139

Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479

Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (selected numbers)

Housing service

(General inquiries) 01656 643643;

(emergencies out of hours) 01656 663247;

(homelessness) 01656 643542.

EDUCATION 01656 642643

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 01656 642677

HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) 01656 643421

HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES

(outside normal working hours) 07831 143600

SOCIAL SERVICES

(general enquiries) 01656 642200

SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCIES

(outside normal working hours) 01443 204010

HOSPITALS Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend 01656 752752

Bridgend and District NHS Trust 01656 752752

VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) 01656 810400

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Brackla Community Council 01656 767072

Bridgend Town Council 01656 659943

Cefn Cribwr Community Council 01656 741354

Coity Higher Community Council 01656 656358

Cornelly Community Council 07882 044798

Pyle Community Council 01656 670251

Cochychurch Higher Community Council 01656 863418

Cochychurch Lower Community Council 01656 647216

Gar Valley Community Council 01656 736751

Laleston Community Council 01656 656506

Llangynwyd Lower Council 01656 728662

Maesteg Town Council 01656 732631

Merthyr Mawr Community Council 01656 670058

Newcastle Higher Community Council 01446 772536

Ogmore Valley Community Council 01656 849402

Pencoed Town Council 01656 869031

Porthcawl Town Council 01656 782215

St Brides Minor Community Council 01656 725031

Ynysawdre Community Council 01656 736751

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Praise for our brave troops ...but what about the helicopters?

I WAS interested to read Madeleine Moon's Westminster Notebook in The GEM on July 9 when she was full of praise for our Armed Forces.

She wrote eloquently about our Armed Forces in the recent past – at last visible to the general public whereas before they were not. She wrote about her time in a Chinook helicopter flying across Salisbury Plain, telling how essential it is for our Armed Forces in the resupply role on operations and bringing us right up to date on the Chinook's role in the movement of troops to forward bases in Afghanistan.

This is generally what you get from Westminster politicians, saying one thing, knowing more and as a result, saying less.

Ms Moon also kindly mentions the Armed Forces Day Parade celebrations in which she gives credit to the British Legion veterans for organising the day and paying special tributes.

Tells us this, in the certain and full knowledge that the troops in Afghanistan are suffering losses as a

direct result of a distressing lack of helicopter support.

When her boss Gordon Brown tells us that he has increased the number of helicopters in Afghanistan by some 60 per cent since 2006, and they have an additional operational capability of 184 hours flying time in support of our troops, the reality is that there are a total of nine British Chinooks in Afghanistan – which are aged, overworked and in desperate need of relief.

Referring to the last paragraph of her article, I would say this: It is an honourable thing to

speak with humility,

compassion and truth, particularly about our Armed Forces and Veterans; but dishonourable to be less than truthful, disingenuous and to use others for your own end.

Major Wayne Morgan, MBE (Chairman, Bridgend County Borough Veterans Association & The Bridgend Branch British Legion)

Digital GEM's a winner!

THANKS for The GEM's digital edition and the back issues in the archives section, which I have read twice over.

G Elston (Former Barrian), Echt, Holland

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BRIDGEND TOWN COUNCIL

'NO DAYTIME FOOT PATROLS BY POLICE IN BRIDGEND' - *claim*

THE lack of policing in areas around Bridgend has been raised by town councillors.

Coun David Unwin said traders had complained to him that they were not seeing foot patrols in town during the day.

"They say that they are seeing no-one - constables or PCSOs," he claimed.

Acting Supt Simon Belcher said that he was often in the town centre himself, and he had seen PCSOs walking about.

"In fact, I saw one today. We have now got beat managers in charge of neighbourhood policing. We have a highly visible beat officer in Bridgend town centre, but he may be off at the moment."

Coun Unwin pointed out that it did the town no good if people were off and not replaced, but Supt Belcher replied that there was back-up.

Coun Edith Hughes said that

there were a lot of problems in old Brackla: "I believe that the problems being experienced by residents is down to a shortage of police. There are not enough officers to go around."

Supt Belcher stated that this was the hardest time of the year with holidays, but that it was managed. New rules were in place, which meant that neighbourhood police officers could not be taken away from their patch for other duties, like policing a football match, for more than 20 per cent of their time.

"We look at the figures every month and if that figure has been exceeded, we investigate. Also, our neighbourhood beat managers cannot be taken away at all. They remain in place all the time."

He said that police had to work with the resources they were given and it was up to them to ensure they had the people in the right places at the right time.

He said he had spoken to the

PCSOs in Brackla about quality of life issues and for the need for attainable goals to be set in action plans.

"We cannot solve a problem like youth annoyance in a month or even a year. We must analyse properly what's happening where we have these problems. There's no quick fix."

He said it was essential that residents keep reporting issues like youth annoyance, so that they can be flagged up and then treated as a priority.

Supt Belcher stressed that he took a very hard line on drugs and there would be no let-up in the fight against them:

"I am very strong on Class A drugs because of the problems we get with car crime and burglaries as a result."

He added that Bridgend was the third safest area out of 15 as far as violent crime was concerned. The area was also in the top five or six areas for a lack of other crimes.

Bridgend to take in-depth look at the street markets

BRIDGEND Town Council has received a report on a meeting held with the Festivals Committee, borough councillors and officers and Bridgend market traders.

Coun David Unwin reported that the question of the street markets staged by the Festivals Committee had been discussed in great length.

"An in-depth look will be taken into the way that the festival committee organises street markets in future and how it operates.

"I hope the outcome will be a better quality market more to the taste of local people and better regulated - and not staged as a fait accompli because that's no good for anyone."

Bridgend market traders have complained bitterly that their trade has been affected by the increasing number of outdoor markets staged in the town centre.

Coun Bob Burns said that the elected members expressed the need for more openness: "There's a need for more accountability by the Bridgend

Festivals Committee - its responsibilities and the provision of its accounts.

"We were not clear that regular accounts have been presented or audited. That's a cause for concern because public money has been allocated to it. We must have accountability for this public money."

Mayor Mervyn Lewis said he had been given a set of accounts, but did not know if they had been audited.

"The constitution states that the Mayor of Bridgend town automatically

becomes chairman of their committee, but this is the first time it has been enacted since 2001."

Coun Bob Burns asked to see copies of the accounts and this will be arranged.

The meeting heard that the Bridgend market manager would attend festival committee meetings in future.

Coun David Unwin commented: "This matter is on the leash now."

Not on expenses!

THERE was jubilation at the last meeting of Bridgend Town Council over a sporting achievement - and it was nothing to do with the Ashes cricket matches!

Coun David Unwin announced that a team from the council had beaten neighbouring Laleston Community Council in a boules match by four points to nil.

He added that it was an away fixture, held on Laleston's home territory.

A return match is being staged on September 11 and he urged councillors to support it.

"This is a fun event and is funded by the councillors themselves - nothing to do with expenses!"

COUNCIL NEWS - in brief

LOPPED OFF...

FIVE young trees have been accidentally chopped down at Newcastle Hill - by BCBC workmen!

The trees were planted by the town council near the beacon brazier and the borough council has admitted that they were chopped down when work was being done to the Newcastle Hill Conservation area. A meeting is to be held to organise replacing the trees.

WASHED AWAY...

HEAVY rain has

washed away wild-flower seeds planted in Reuben's Field, adjacent to Newbridge Fields, Bridgend.

The seeds had been planted by the BCBC Countryside Management team on behalf of the town council which leases the meadow. The council has agreed to pay £500 for replacement seeds.

The field is called after Reuben, who was a horse owned by the old Bridgend UDC. He was used to pull a rubbish cart and used to graze in that field.

Local people who were children in the 1950s have many fond

memories of seeing him there.

DONATIONS
BRIDGEND Town Council has made the following donations:

Blue Deltas Jazz Band, £200; Wildmill Community Fun Day, £500; Bridgend Town cricket club, adult section, £500; youth section, £250.

ON MOVE?

POLICE have confirmed that it is their long-term intention to move out of the police station at Cheapside in Bridgend town centre, freeing up the site for an alternative use.

However, there was no information for

Bridgend Town Council about where the police station would move to. It was agreed to keep the situation under review.

QUESTION TIME

BRIDGEND has been placed on a waiting list of towns that wish to host the BBC Radio 4 programme Gardeners' Question Time.

The council will be notified when the date of hosting is approaching. Brynteg School has agreed to host the event when it takes place.

News from the Rotary Club of Bridgend...

Community fun day

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend, opened the Tesco community fun day at Tesco, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend, and despite the inclement weather, it turned out to be a very successful event, with some 20 stalls manned by charities and organisations and suppliers of products to Tesco.

Mad Jav's Disco whipped up the crowd's enthusiasm for the games, face painting and a barbecue, keeping everyone busy and amused.

The Rotary Club's stall was manned

throughout the day, with Rotarians taking it in turn to answer questions on what they do in the local community, and on getting involved in projects and events to help local organisations.

Sponsorship
BRIDGEND Rotary Club has sponsored shorts for Bridgend Athletic under-14s next season.

Pictured (on right of page) are Rotarian Elwyn Williams and team captain Joss.

This follows on from previous sponsorship of ruck pads, tackle bags, and equipment required by the team.

Coch Ian Greenman again thanked the Rotary Club for its continued support, and stated that the equipment supplied previously had helped immensely in the young players' development.

It had reduced injuries both in training, and warm-ups prior to games.

The shorts sponsorship was the missing link in the team's new rugby strip for next season.

They had been experiencing difficulties in



Rotarian Elwyn Williams - handshake seals the latest sport sponsorship.

raising sponsorship from businesses who are suffering due to the credit crunch.

ELWYN WILLIAMS
(Chair of Bridgend Rotary Club)



Bridgend Rotary Club's stall.



BARFC under-14s with the Rotary Club and part of their training kit.

Llanmoor Homes help Dolau Primary to raise their flags!

Llanmoor Homes has stepped in to ensure that the flags at Dolau Primary in Llanharan are flying high - with a donation of three flagpoles.

The new poles now stand proudly outside the school. One is being used to fly the recently awarded Green Flag, which recognises the school's commitment to promoting environmental issues, to encourage pupils to think about sustainability and ways in which their school can be run to the benefit of the environment.

It is the second time that Dolau Primary has been awarded full Green Flag status, which is achieved after a detailed assessment of the school.

Part of the Eco-Schools scheme, schools have to go through several stages, which include forming an eco-committee, undertaking an environmental review and formulating an action plan.

The Eco-committee is made up of pupils, teachers and also non-teaching staff.

The school has to commit to undertaking improvements, among other things in - litter controls, use of energy and water, waste management and the promotion of healthy living.

Alongside the highly prized Green Flag, flies Dolau Primary's own school flag and the Welsh national flag.



ABOVE:
The school's flags are flying high.

Sergeant Kevin steps up with Kenfig Hill Cadets

...THE UNIFORM LOOKS FAMILIAR!

IT'S déjà vu for Kevin Gould, who has just been appointed to the rank of Sergeant with 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC.

Kevin, who joined the Squadron on July 1, 2008 as a civilian instructor, has previously served 12 years with the Royal Air Force, so he is not a stranger to the uniform.

Flt Lt Barry C Thomas, Officer Commanding, said he was "pleased" that Sgt Gould had successfully been appointed to the rank of sergeant with the ATC, as he has "worked extremely hard over the last 12 months as a civilian instructor and is eager to take on the responsibilities of his new role".

Sgt Gould will be attending his initial SNCO course at RAF

Cranwell later this year.

The 2117 squadron parades on Tuesdays and Fridays from 7pm-9.30pm.

For more information, contact the Squadron on parade nights, or telephone 01656 670125.

LINDSAY THOMAS (Secretary Civilian committee)



SERGEANT KEVIN GOULD.

'CCTV is in need of updating in Bridgend' – says town councillor

INFORMATION about how the CCTV cameras are working in Bridgend is being gathered by borough member Bob Burns.

He told Bridgend Town Council that he had been asked by the corporate services scruti-

ny committee to research the provision of CCTV for a project board that had been set up.

They would be concentrating initially on Maesteg West, Morfa and town centre areas.

"We need some information, including anecdotal, to go before the research panel," he said. "We want people's experiences to be reflected in

what we decide.

"We need to know if we have the right number of cameras, if they need to be re-sited, and a whole raft of other things that we would welcome comments on."

Acting Supt Simon Belcher told the town council that the CCTV system was very proactive and was responsible for the detection of a number of assaults.

"We have had a number of serious assaults that have been captured by the cameras when the operators focused in on what was happening. I cannot speak highly enough of the team."

Coun Burns said that the system needed re-equipping, with more modern items fit for the 21st century, including better screens and also equipment to make it easier to search through tapes.

"This would cut down on police time and make it easier for the tapes to be used in criminal cases," he stated.

PACT meeting
The next PACT meeting for the Bryncoch/Sarn wards is at 7pm on August 3 in the Sarn Lifelong Centre, Merfield Close. Everyone is welcome.

Library opening

I attended the official opening this week of the library extension at the Sarn Life Long Learning Centre.

There were a number of local dignitaries at the ceremony, including the Mayor Coun Jeff Tildesley; Couns Cheryl Green (leader of the Lib-Dems); Coun Mel Nott (leader of the Labour group); County councillors Llewellyn Morgan, Wayne Morgan, Pat Penpraze, Gary Thomas, Mel Winter, Community Councillors Dave Lewis, Mrs Shirley Dobbs, Les Phillips, and the clerk, Brian Rees I apologise if I have missed anyone.

The project was launched a few years ago after the chairman of the Sarn and Bryncethin Community Association, Glyn Walters, put the idea forward to Coun Cheryl Green, then leader of Bridgend CBC.

She agreed it was a worthwhile project and council officials then contacted the Assembly for funding to carry it forward. This was agreed and the planning proposals were put in place.

After the election, the new leader, Coun Mel Nott approved the project; work began and was completed on time by the contractors.

Meanwhile, the library service, under its senior officer Mr John Wood, was busy ordering 2,000 new books to fill the 70 metres of space available.

The department also ordered 16 new computers with the latest Microsoft Windows Vista Programmes.

When I went to the library last Monday, 11 children were using the new computers.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Joint concert

Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir were invited to Barnstaple recently for a joint concert in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association with the Barnstaple Male Voice Choir.

It was the Barnstaple choir's 90th annual gala concert and the Ogmore Valley choir was honoured to be invited to the magnificent St. Peter's Church.

This was a return visit after hosting the Barnstaple choir last year, and an appreciative, capacity audience

were entertained with a wide variety of songs in several languages including Latin, Swahili, Afrikaans, Italian, English and, of course, Welsh.

The Ogmore choir's soloist Catrin Eleri Jenkins captivated the audience with her beautiful soprano voice during renditions of 'Lark in the Clear Air', a traditional Irish melody and the Welsh lullaby, 'Suo Gan'; and also when accompanied by the choir in Mozart's 'Laudate Dominum' and Mai Jones' 'Nos Da'.

Meanwhile, the library service, under its senior officer Mr John Wood, was busy ordering 2,000 new books to fill the 70 metres of space available.

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When I went to the library last Monday, 11 children were using the new computers.

the concert.

The tireless work of the choir in support of fund-raising events arranged by charities and other organisations, helps to raise many thousands of pounds each year.

The choir practices every Thursday evening at 7pm at Canolfan Bethlehem and welcomes new recruits.

Praise the volunteers

I, along with many members of the public, would like to thank the staff and the group of volunteers who work so hard at Parc Slip Nature Reserve

The footpaths are regularly trimmed to prevent them becoming overgrown, litter is regularly cleared away, and undergrowth cut back periodically to ensure the marvellous show of wild flowers.

They have also encouraged Lapwings and Sky Larks to nest in certain areas.

The Wildlife Trust are constantly looking for volunteers; Contact them on 01656 724100.

The trust has organised activities for children over the summer holidays, including pond dipping on August 1, and Water to Waves on August 4.

These activities start at 10.30am for approximately two hours at the visitor centre.

The trust still has tickets left for the coach trip to Longleat Safari Park on August 27.

Club meets

Aberkenfig Retired Persons Club recently

had a guest speaker Mr Richard Rees, a representative of the rural generation unit, who gave an enlightening talk on food co-ops in operation in the Bridgend valleys areas.

He can be contacted on 01443 402317, or 07918715718.

The club meets at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, every Wednesday at 1.45 pm; for more information contact Joyce/Tom on 01656 720823 or 720026.

Garden party

Ogmore Valley Ladies Society and Choir recently held a grand garden party at the home of Mr and Mrs Clive Davies in Blackmill.

It was held to provide funds for the choir's charity of the year – the 'First Responders' – volunteers who assist the ambulance service.

The event was well attended and everyone enjoyed the varied stalls with their displays of home made cakes and crafts.

Once again, it showed how hard the ladies work; on this popular event. To date, the total raised from is more than £1,400.

The choir was formed in 1965, and rehearses at Ogmore Vale Welfare Hall, between High and Commercial Street on Mondays from 6.30pm-8.30pm.

All visitors are warmly welcomed to these practice sessions. Telephone 01656 840144.

'Green fingers' Callum Gardener of the Year!

STUDENT Callum Ellis has been chosen by Heronsbridge School, Bridgend as its Gardener of the Year.

The award, sponsored by specialist recruitment company, Hays Education, was presented to Callum during the school's end of year assembly.

He was selected by the school as Gardener of the Year because of his "enthusiasm, commitment and passion for gardening". He was been involved in setting up the school's garden and has chosen a horticulture module as his study subject.

David Halliday was named as the runner up – for being "consistently helpful".

Daiva Adey, office manager at Hays Education said: "We are proud to be involved with Heronsbridge School and sponsor this award.

"It is a fantastic opportunity to help motivate the students and reward outstanding achievements. It is important that children have an all-round education and can nurture their interests in the school environment. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the school in the future."

TOWN COUNCIL – news in brief

BRIDGEND Town Council has asked BCBC to bring in a public places order to ban the drinking of alcohol on the streets of Wildmill.

It is being considered by Andrew Jolley, assistant chief executive. A REQUEST is to be made for Quarella Road to be resurfaced, as the surface is patchy.

The council will also report the badly rutted state of Cheapside to the borough council highways department. BRIDGEND Town Council has backed plans to convert the old houses at Elder Street in the town centre into a restaurant.

LETTERS of thanks have been received from Rest Bay Lifeguard Club and Macmillan Cancer Support thanking the council for donations.

Each organisation received £300.

COUN Bob Burns has

asked the town council to support measures to pressure Welsh Water into upgrading the drainage system in the Brynteg Avenue area.

He said that there was more flash flooding in the area than ever before because of climate change.

PROBLEMS with speeding traffic coming down the inner bypass and then turning into Rice Street are to be raised at the next PACT meeting, Coun David Unwin told councillors.

Coun Dennis Davey said this issue had been raised with him.

JUDGES from Wales in Bloom have toured Bridgend town centre to view the flowers placed around the town by the borough and town councils.

Coun David Unwin said he accompanied the judges and he wanted to thank council staff for making sure the town

was in tip top condition on the day.

He said staff had put their heart and soul into it. He also thanked the bus station manager for the exemplary state of the bus station and also staff at the railway station.

The result will be known in a few weeks. THE OLD POST BOX in Acland Road is to be replaced with a pillar box, Coun David Unwin reported.

The old box was attached to a lamp post but this has now been replaced and the new lamp post is too wide for the box to go around.

CLARE LEWIS of Bryntirion has been co-opted onto Bridgend Town Council to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Elystan Davies.

Mrs Lewis will sit in the Oldcastle Ward. She is the wife of Mayor Mervyn Lewis. Both are

Conservative councillors.

She was elected in a secret ballot by an overwhelming majority over Independent Gwynn Leyshon, who also put his name forward.

BRIDGEND Town Council is to oppose any attempt to extend the opening hours of the Barracuda Bar in Wyndham Street.

The bar has applied to vary the terms of its planning consent to remain open until 3.30am each day.

Coun David Unwin said that it would be gone 4am before people were finally leaving the premises and he was opposed to it.

The bar was created in the old English Congregational Church. It was agreed that if the hours asked for are longer than has been granted at present, then the town council will object.

The three people who were landed earlier at Porthcawl were transported to Swansea by road by Porthcawl Coastguard personnel.

Porthcawl RNLI race to the rescue

THE Porthcawl RNLI lifeboat *Shire of the Roses* was launched last week to help a sailing boat two miles off Rest Bay at 12.30pm on Thursday, July 23.

The vessel, which was heading for Barry Port in west Wales, reported a broken forward mast and requested immediate assistance.

A Porthcawl RNLI spokesman said: "With four adults and an eight-year-old on board, speed of rescue was vital."

"Rose of the Shires" arrived on scene at 12.50pm and, following discussions with helmsman Stephen Knipe, it was agreed to take off two females and the eight-year-old.

The three people who were landed earlier at Porthcawl were transported to Swansea by road by Porthcawl Coastguard personnel.

'Police villages from Bridgend not Barry' – call'

POLICING of villages to the south of Bridgend including Ewenny, Ogmore by Sea, Southerndown and St Bride's Major should be carried out from Bridgend and not Barry.

That was the view of Bridgend council leader David Unwin, who said that now the Bridgend and Vale police divisions were merging, it was a nonsense to send officers from Barry to deal with these problems.

"These villages were located in the Vale division and officers would have to come all the way from Vale stations to deal with problems," he said.

"It seems sensible to me that following the merger, the policing should be transferred to Bridgend which is only a few minutes away. It would be crazy to keep the old system going."

Acting Supt Simon Belcher told Bridgend town council he would raise the issue at a meeting this week.

TELL US YOUR NEWS!

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: gjem@internet-today.co.uk

ST CLARE'S PUPILS SCORE HIGH MARKS IN ALL-WALES EVENT



PUPILS from St Clare's School in Porthcawl excelled at a recent cross-Wales competition, culminating in an awards and presentation day at the Celtic Manor Hotel in Newport.

Pupils from St Clare's were among 80 schools throughout Wales that participated in the engineering education scheme Wales event.

The St Clare's team, which included Alexandra Dunlop (team leader), Michael Stuttaford (ICT), Rhodri Martin (ecologist), Christian Wallis and Alexander Whatley (design) had to undertake a fea-

sibility study to assess the most appropriate crossing point over the Ogmore River.

The task was proposed by Bridgend County Borough Council as part of its section of the 'All Wales Coastal Path'.

The team were linked to the civil engineering firm Capita Symonds as their engineering mentor, and Fiona Neeson as project leader.

Over the year, the team researched the types of bridges that would be suitable in the area - a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and susceptible to flooding.

St Clare's was one of the highest scoring teams in Wales, and the assessor commented on

the quality of the written work, presentation and team work demonstrated by the team.

The assessor praised an 'excellent team effort', the commitment of the team, the school and the company were evident and the students are to be congratulated on a first class project.

Headteacher of St Clare's, Catherine Barnard, commented: 'At St Clare's we are very proud, not just of our academic achievements, but also our extra-curricular activities.'

'The team are to be congratulated for the amount of hard work they put into this event and the excellent results they achieved.'

Operation Acapulco will take reckless motorcyclists off road

'DANGEROUS' motorcyclists are being targeted following concerns raised at PACT meetings and police 'surgeries'.

South Wales Police's specialist off-road motorcycle team will be working together with the Porthcawl and Pyle Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) throughout the summer to run a

police operation, named Operation Acapulco. Porthcawl Neighbourhood Inspector Alan James explained: 'Many local residents have expressed their grave worries about groups of youths driving dangerously on motorcycles and off-road bikes in the area.'

'The youths concerned had been racing up and down, riding on footpaths, and causing anti social behaviour. Local residents are extremely concerned that bikes being used in such a manner may lead to a serious accident.'

'Throughout the summer we will run this operation which has been specifically



NEWS IN BRIEF...NEWS IN BRIEF...

DAMAGED play equipment in the playground at Newbridge Fields was removed before the start of the school holidays. Councillor David Unwin told the town council.

THE next clean-up of the River Ogmore in Bridgend is scheduled for August. The town council is to liaise with the Environment Agency about the date.

Volunteers will be co-ordinated and a trailer will be supplied for the debris.

THE dilapidated condition of Cae Court in Merthyr Mawr Road is

causing concern to Bridgend Town Council.

Approaches have been made to BCBC about taking action because the building is in private ownership and needs urgent repair.

Councillor David Unwin said that the council was looking at options to ensure the long term future of Cae Court. **THE** need for a Sunday bus through Wildmill is to be pursued by Bridgend Town Council with BCBC.

The council heard that it would cost too much to lay on a special bus to

serve the estate.

Members heard that requests for a service had been made and it was agreed that bus services generally on Sundays and bank holidays need improvement.

BRIDGEND county borough is one of the worst economic performers in Wales - town councillors were told.

A recent survey of Wales had revealed that unemployment has increased by 135 per cent between April 2008 and April 2009.

Celebration concert on 60th anniversary of Maesteg's first Welsh medium school

A SPECIAL celebration concert was staged at Maesteg Town Hall to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the town's Welsh medium school.

It was in 1949 that the first class was set up by the old Glamorgan County Council in part of Nantyffyllon Primary School.

It had actually got under way a year or two earlier in the vestry of Bethania Chapel and was organised and funded by parents.

The school then moved to its own site at Ty Derwen in Nantyffyllon, taking its name from that building.

About 20 years ago, the school moved to its new site in what had been the Maesteg Grammar School and changed its name to Ysgol Gymraeg Cynwyd Sant.

The present head, Tegwen Ellis welcomed past and present pupils and parents, together with some of the staff from over the years.

One of the speakers at the concert was Iwan Guy, who was her immediate predecessor as head. He told the audience that his time at the school was the highlight of his career.

Past pupils, Carolyn Davidson, Menna Thomas and Anthony Bwyte all sang solos, and represented pupils from the days when the children travelled to either Rhyl or Ystalyfera Welsh medium comprehensive

schools in order to complete their education.

There was also a treat for the audience with performances from two former pupils from more recent times - Aled Williams, who is 16 and attends Ysgol Gynfod Llanharan, and Rhidian Jenkins, who was a pupil until a year ago and now attends Ysgol Gynfod Llangynwyd, the first Welsh medium secondary school in Bridgend borough.

Both boys won the Bridgend Young Singer of the Year competition in their age categories - a great coup both for the school and for the town.

The second half of the concert saw today's pupils performing a variety of songs.

Then the Junior Choir took to the stage under the direction of

Miss Rebecca Morgan, herself a former pupil who now teaches at the school.

They were joined by the staff and by Anthony Bwyte, Aled and Rhidian for a stirring rendition of the Dafydd Iwan song 'Yma o Hyd', which brought the house down.

The celebrations continue in September with a treasure hunt, leaving from the school at 5pm on September 24.

This is followed on September 26 by a celebration dinner at the Town Hall. Tickets are available from the school.

There will also be a service of thanksgiving at Capel Canaan at a date to be fixed.

Hectic July for the WI

COLWINSTON/LLYSWORNEY WI

community role during the afternoon with cream tea and five members provided song routines, ably supported by president Kath Jones on piano.

During a busy month, a group of members travelled to St Fagans on July 14 to enjoy a performance of *The Gondoliers*.

The visit to Nash Lighthouse on June 30 was another successful outing, when a representative of Trinity House gave a talk on its history, allowed us all to climb up and down the many steps (who needs Weight Watchers?) and demonstrated the fog horn, which could be heard clearly from Colwinston.

The evening was finalised with a tapas meal in Wick.

Looking forward to Saturday, September 5, we have organised 'An Evening with Terry Walton' at Colwinston village hall, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 and the evening includes a light supper and bar.

Terry Walton is, of course, the BBC Wales gardening expert. His talk is based on allotments and gardening tips generally. This event is open to the public.

The next business meeting will be on Monday, September 14, at the village hall at 7.30pm when an auction will be organised. All welcome.

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FRIENDS REMEMBER PAL CHLOE IN SONG



ABOVE: Watching the balloons fly away.

FRIENDS of a Bridgend girl who died of a rare form of cancer at just 14 years of age have recorded a charity CD in her memory.

It was in December 2007 that Chloe Bigmore died, and the friends chose July 20 – the date of what would have been her 16th birthday – to launch the tribute CD.

Fittingly, the CD features contributions from the Bridgend Youth Theatre, the Bridgend Youth Orchestra, and the Bryntirion

Comprehensive School Senior Choir – because Chloe was an active member of all three groups.

To continue the theatrical theme, Chloe's friends chose The Atrium in Cardiff, which is a hub for students in the performing arts, as the venue for the launch.

In Cardiff for the day were: Chloe's mum and dad, Paul and Lesley; her brother and sister, Luke and Laura; Dafydd Roberts, chief executive of Sain record company, who produced the CD; and Jim Barrett head of the music production department at the

Atrium. Also there were members of the Bridgend Youth Theatre, Bridgend Youth Orchestra and Bryntirion Comprehensive School.

A number of friends took a break from rehearsing for the Bridgend Youth Theatre's production of Gypsy, which played for three nights last week at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion.

It was a show, of course, that Chloe would have been involved in.

A spokeswoman said: "It was such a perfect day, culminating in the launch of 16 pink balloons to commemorate



ABOVE: Amanda Morgan (Chloe's ballet teacher) with members of Bridgend Youth Theatre and Bridgend Youth Orchestra.

what would have been Chloe's 16th birthday."

She continued: "The aim of the fund is to purchase a much-needed holiday home, which will then enable families with terminally or seriously-ill children to have a break from the hospital environment.

"The theme of the CD, entitled *Chloe's Collection*, is songs from the shows, and each track was chosen from a show that Chloe had taken part in."

The one exception is the track 'For good' from *Wicked*. This was chosen because of the lyrics, which talk about

how knowing one person can affect your life, and change someone for the better.

One other track, 'Chloe's song' was written by the pupils and staff of the music department at Bryntirion Comprehensive during her illness.

The CDs will be on sale from next month. Stockists include Siop yr Hen Bont and Celtic Cameras in Bridgend Town.

CDS can also be purchased (and tasters of all the tracks can be heard) through the website, www.chloebigmore.co.uk

New rural body aims to extend its rural 'reach'

A new initiative, the Rural Development Programme for Bridgend, had its official launch earlier this month.

The new body aims to highlight the role of rural communities, and it was introduced at an event at Lakeside Farm Park, Glynnogwr, with Ogmore MP Huw Irranca-Davies and Janice Gregory AM joining more than 100 people in celebrating the launch of 'reach'.

Huw Irranca-Davies said: "When people think of Ogmore, of Bridgend, they often think of mines and heavy industry, and not of a 'rural' area.

"However, we have always been rural, with men who worked half their lives on the land and half underground.

"We have a stunning backdrop of uplands commons and lowland farms.

"We are now rediscovering this beauty, and the potential of our rural base, and our communities can unlock this potential."

The new body will be funded by the EU, the Assembly and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

Coun David Sage,

the deputy leader of BCBC and the chair of 'reach', opened the day and invited guests to find out more about the programme and try their hand at rural skills.

Workshops included forge working, archery and local food demonstrations.

The day highlighted the range of produce and skills available in the local area, and was rounded off with a tasty locally-sourced lunch.

'reach' (which is written in the lower case) has secured £1.7million for a range of projects across the rural county borough, focusing on tourism, the environment, community development and local food.

The programme is able to give support and guidance, and offers grant support for events, tourism businesses and community projects.

Anyone interested in finding out more about 'reach' should contact the central team on 01656 815080 or email rural.development@bridgendreach.org.uk

CANCER RESEARCH CHARITY'S FUN DAY

ON July 31, the Cancer Research UK shop in Caroline Street, Bridgend, is holding its second in-store fun day tomorrow (Friday).

There will be a raffle with many prizes, including a meal for two

at Fox's Wine Bar donated by the manager. Mayhem Menswear in Dunraven Place will be selling raffle tickets to win a paintballing experience for eight people.

Manageress Kat Edger said: "I am looking forward to this fun day because on July 31 a few of the volunteers,

AM and MP back 'Red Alert' warning

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon and Ogmore MP

Janice Gregory have backed a 'red alert' warning to local youngsters after learning more about sun safety from experts at Cancer Research UK.

They attended special 'Molewatch Clinics' at the National Assembly and Westminster last week and were given a stark warning about the risk that sunburn poses to young people.

Cancer Research UK is urging AMs and MPs to get the message out to their constituents that sunburn can double the risk of the most dangerous form of skin cancer. The AM said: "I was shocked to learn that malignant melanoma – the most serious form of

skin cancer – is now the most common cancer in young adults aged between 15 and 34.

"It's so important for young adults and parents to take steps to protect their own skin and that of their children by covering up, spending some time in the shade and using sunscreen."

Madeleine Moon said: "I was shocked to learn that experts believe binge tanning, usually on foreign holidays, is contributing to the alarming rise in this life-threatening disease.

"It's vital for people to know that wherever they are, they need to take simple measures to protect their skin."

For information on skin cancer and the Cancer Research UK SunSmart campaign, visit: www.sunsmart.org.uk

WE'LL CONTINUE TO KEEP A WELCOME...

THIS is not so much a news story as a love story of Wales – Porthcawl to be precise.

Porthcawl is the town my late father, Harold (Chris) Christie adopted as his own many years ago; and later my late husband, Rudy, was also to discover the warmth and love of the Welsh people before we moved to my husband's country, America.

Once here in the US, we longed to 'go home' but only did so for short holidays.

Sadly, the people I love most I lost one-by-one, but on my last visit home – and Wales is home – the

love of the Welsh people once again was felt, no matter where you wandered in this beautiful land you are so fortunate to call home.

If destiny permits, I hope one day to again visit your gentle land, listen to the waves pound against the sea wall, or hear the beautiful bells peal from St John's Church, walk the cobblestones, taste delicious Welsh cakes, but most of all to hear the musical Welsh accent, for surely, every Welshman must be born with a song in his heart.

In the meantime, please continue to keep a welcome in your beautiful Welsh hillsides.

Elizabeth Ann Lovic-Christie Monroeville, Pennsylvania, USA

First chairman for the Maesteg PACT



ABOVE: Maesteg PACT chairman Ken Hicks, pictured with PCSO Lisa Johns, PCSO Maria Pascoe and PC David Rees.

MAESTEG east and west wards have appointed their first PACT chairman.

PCSO Maria Pascoe of Maesteg West NPT said: "We are very pleased that Ken has taken up the challenge of chairing the PACT meetings.

Since the PACT initiative was launched, meetings have been held in the town without a designated chairman and, at the last meeting, local man Mr Ken Hicks was elected to the post.

Youth annoyance in Maesteg town centre has been identified as the PACT priority and members of the neighbourhood policing team have stepped up patrols in the area, which has helped to improve the situation.

Officers also check for youths drinking alcohol and dropping litter.

"As well as being a danger for pedestrians, it causes considerable problems for buses as

they use the neighbouring terminus".

Mr Hicks commented: "PACT means Partners and Communities. Together and I will do my best to get everyone involved in our community to work together for the good of the town.

"I am looking forward to building on the success of PACT in Maesteg and getting all the partners to work together successfully to address any PACT priorities which are decided upon at the meetings.

"Everyone in the town has a stake in its success and I would encourage as many people as possible to become involved and attend these meetings," he added.

The 'political baggage' that comes with the UK's membership of EU

PROBABLY no-one would sniff at a European market of 500 million customers (although the rest of the world is much bigger).

that this was untrue, our whole membership of what is now the European Union is based on what we might, if feeling charitable, call a misrepresentation.

If the EU restricted itself to providing a common market and to cross-border matters, fair enough, but what have the following to do with either of these? – rural Post Office closures, fortnightly bin collections, the aggravation of trying to open a bank account, home information packs, vitamin supplements, booster car seats for 12-year-olds, banning bent (or straight) cucumbers and forced carrots?

This was, after all, how the Common Market was sold to us originally. Sadly, Mr. Heath forgot to mention the political baggage, which would come with membership.

This is what he said: "There are some in this country who fear that, in going into Europe, we shall in some way sacrifice independence and sovereignty. These fears, I need hardly say, are completely unjustified."

To the extent that he and the contemporary European leaders knew

EU legislation. Whether the percentage of our laws coming from Brussels is 80, 40 or anything else, the underlying question is "Who asked their opinion anyway?"

I tried once to find the answer to this question, in relation to banning mercury in barometers.

After much correspondence, the best I obtained was the following from one Klaus Berend: "It is not possible to attribute the idea to one individual person or event."

So it seems that we are governed by laws initiated by anonymous members of an unelected body. And what is the difference between laws and regulations? Can regulations be ignored? I don't think so.

Meanwhile, they carry on implementing the Lisbon whateveritis as though they had won. The EU's disgraceful finances, and how we have become supplicants for our own money, would be the subject of a letter on their own.

RH Bradshaw

INQUEST HEARS OF GIRL'S 'HABITUAL SOCIALISING'**Pencoed 16-year-old was 'over the limit' before being hit by speeding train**

AN INQUEST has been told how a 16-year-old girl was killed by a train when she walked onto a railway line at Pencoed – after drinking vodka and red wine with friends.

Schoolgirl Sophie Harris was almost double the drink-drive limit after downing alcohol with friends as young as 13 next to the tracks.

The friends were sitting next to the railway line when Sophie "playfully" jumped onto the line with a younger girl.

Chelsea Davies (13) told how she fell onto the track and Sophie jumped down to follow her.

Chelsea, who had also been drinking red wine with Sophie, told police: "I shouted to her: 'Get off the track, there is a train coming.'

"But she shouted back: 'Don't worry, it's not going to hit me.'"

Only seconds later, Sophie was killed by the train at 85mph as her friends shouted in vain. Her mother told how her daughter had started drinking vodka in the months before her death.

Mum Tina Harris said: "Sophie was a vivacious, lively young lady with many friends. She was great with children and had started a childcare course, but was not attending because of her habitual socialising."

"Sophie drank alcohol – it was vodka – and three months before, she was taken to hospital after collapsing, due to the amount of alcohol she had consumed."

At the inquest, which was held in Aberdare, the cause of death was given as blunt head injuries and a post mortem revealed Sophie had 157mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood.

Pathologist Dr Derek James said: "The level of alcohol was sufficient to affect Sophie's decision-making, judgement and balance."

The inquest heard from her friends how they shouted to Sophie to get off the track. They all knew a train was coming because the automatic level crossing in the village had closed and an alarm was sounding.

Sophie's best friend, Ceri-Anne Ryan said: "I could hear the level crossing beeping so I knew a train was coming."

"I was shouting for them both to get off

the tracks. Chelsea had noticed the train and did get off the tracks. There were people on the platform all shouting."

"I can recall Sophie looking round and seeing the train approaching, but then it hit her."

Teenage witness Gethin Williams had seen the two girls drinking earlier in the evening and then saw them on the track together.

He said: "I shouted: 'Chelsea, get off the track. Don't be so stupid.'

"I could hear the train coming and Chelsea walked off the track."

"But the other girl carried on walking down the track and I saw her look behind her and try to move away from the track. But the train hit her and she was killed."

Train driver Christian Davies was in the Paddington Great Western Express train as it approached the verge of Pencoed.

He said: "I blew the horn and applied the emergency brakes, but the female on the track didn't respond and didn't move."

"The time between seeing her and hitting her was between two and four seconds."

The jury at the inquest returned a verdict of accidental death.

Porthcawl concert wins plaudits

BARRY WILSON, musical director of Porthcawl Choral Society, must have been very pleased with the outstanding concert which the choir performed at All Saints' Porthcawl.

This energetic conductor has the proven ability to choose music which his choir find enjoyable to sing, and this shows through the truly pleasing work they continue to successfully perform.

Commencing with three rousing pieces 'Majesty', 'Hosanna', and 'All People that on earth

do dwell', the choir then showed their versatility with songs from the shows, including the 'Ascot Gavotte', 'Love changes everything', and 'People will say we're in love'.

The audience appreciated an unusual occurrence when the male members of the choir gave a robust performance of a popular medley which included a selection from the *Student Prince*, including the 'Drinking Song' and 'Gaudeamus'.

The enjoyment of the evening was, however, secured by the performances of its artists. Wendy Kupinsky, described as

the resident artist because she is a member of Porthcawl Choral Society.

Once again she gave an exceptional performance, culminating with her superb solo work during the complex but lovely Franz Joseph Haydn's *Little Organ Mass*.

David Mayberry returned and, in his own style, delivered a fine performance closing with the ever popular 'Because'.

As usual, new emerging young talent was welcomed with excellent individual participation through the lovely voice of Amelia Jones and the flute of Bethan Rees.

Particularly outstanding was again the violin

solos of Hefen Miles, an outstanding talent, who will undoubtedly continue to blossom as he enters the Cardiff College of Drama and Art soon.

Barry Wilson has previously shown his passion for the works of Sir Arthur Sullivan and on this occasion he introduced a work seldom heard in public, *King Arthur*.

The audience were clearly bemused but appreciative as they listened to the lyrics of 'The Holy Grail' and the sword 'Excalibur'. Also indispensable to the evening, however, was our delightful organist Sheila Miles, who

meets all musical challenges – whether organ or piano – expertly and elegantly.

The evening was attended by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Rosemary Deere.

This happy and memorable evening closed with the benediction being delivered by Father Jonathon of All Saints' Church, Porthcawl, and all went home with joy in their hearts.

CLIVE MORT

GOLDEN WEDDING

Shirley and Arthur.

A PARTY in their beautiful garden in the village of Treoes saw the celebration of Shirley and Arthur Callaghan's golden wedding on Saturday, July 25.

Shirley and Arthur were married in Saron Chapel on July 25, 1959 and have lived in their present home for the past 36 years.

Shirley is a true Treoes 'girl' – having been born in a thatched cottage in the heart of the village. Arthur is a true 'Rhonda' boy.

Their children all live in close proximity to their parents and pictures



COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynwydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

the column and Gwyn's companion was killed.

Gwyn has written many poems and stories of his harrowing experiences as a PoW and of life in his home town of Blaengarw.

He had many harrowing tales to relate. Following one raid on Germany, his plane was attacked over the English Channel when a fellow crewman was killed, just minutes after Gwyn jumped from the blazing plane.

After several hours, he was rescued by a group of French Resistance fighters but, unfortunately, he was betrayed by someone from the village and arrested by the Germans.

He and other PoWs were marched through France to be imprisoned in Germany. One day, when the prisoners were approaching Germany, an RAF fighter plane flew over and bombed

nights and through the days, A hundred thousand different ways, I love you still, and through eternity My love will last for all to see,

A beacon burning, blazing in the night Illuminating all in sight My love will live in every scented flower And in the freshening April shower,

In every breeze that stirs the autumn leaf, My love will live beyond belief,

'Twill live and laugh in every singing stream In every thought, in every dream Can words express the depth of such a love? Emblazoned in the stars above,

* I have had full permission from Joan to tell Gwyn's story. Any reader wishing to buy Gwyn's book of poems can telephone her on 01656 663693.

MP congratulates Big Ben winners!

As part of the famous clock's 150th birthday, known across the world as Big Ben, the Clock the House of Commons, ran a competition to design a Christmas card around the theme of 'Parliament and Big Ben'.

Madeleine Moon MP said: "I received more than 100 entries in the Christmas Card Design Competition from schools across my constituency. The response was excellent and the standard exceptionally high, which made the judging very difficult.

"My overall winner from all the designs was: Frazer Herdene – Penybont Primary School, and the runners-up were: Cameron Davies – Penybont



ABOVE: Madeleine Moon, Chris Britten, Cameron Davies and Frazer Herdene (right).

Primary and Rhys Edwards – Heronsbridge School."

Mrs Moon visited Penybont Primary and

Heronsbridge to congratulate Frazer, Cameron and Rhys and to present them with a Big Ben Badge and certificate.

Take a summertime break with local youth charity

KPC YOUTH, the charity based in Pyle, but for all young people from the Cynffig area, will be open daily during the summer holidays, from 10 am-3pm daily for eight-12 year olds, and until 5pm for over-13s.

Evening opening will

be Monday, Wednesday and Friday (5.30pm-8pm for eight-12s, and 8pm-10pm for 13-plus).

During summer holidays there are various activities.

The centre is located next to Pil Primary School in Pyle, off Pyle Inn Way, in Pyle. Telephone the centre on 01656 745399/749219 or email: kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

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BUSY MONTH FOR THE PORTHCAWL CADETS!

CADETS from 2347 Squadron Porthcawl have been busy recently.

They recently attended an adventure event, 'Go Ape' in Margam Park. It was a successful day and the cadets were given achievement certificates to record the activities that they had tackled.

Cadets also went on a week-end adventure training event.

A spokeswoman said: "This is one of the many exciting events the cadets get up to. If you are over 13 and would like some excitement in your life, this is the place to be!"

Cadets every Monday and Friday from 7pm - 9pm at the Fortyacre site, Porthcawl. Contact Susan Daniel (secretary) on 01656 788643 or susan.daniel@tiscali.co.uk



RIGHT:
Flt Lt Jill Flewin,
Flying Officer
Matthew Hayes and
cadets collecting for
Porthcawl Carnival.

Bridgend Head's special project



ABOVE: Departing headteacher Chris Britten with Madeleine Moon MP.

MADELEINE MOON MP DROPPED INTO PENYBONT PRIMARY SCHOOL AT LUNCHEON ON FRIDAY TO SURPRISE THE HEAD ON HIS LAST DAY.

Mrs Moon said: "Among the mayhem of the last day in school, I couldn't let Chris Britten, head of Penybont for the last seven years, leave without wishing him a personal farewell."

"I wanted to thank

DOG FOULING (from page 1)

In his response, council leader Mel Nott referred members to a decision taken last August by the cabinet to increase the penalty notice fine to £100, and to a second decision to appoint as third dog fouling enforcement officer. That new post was filled in January, and there are a further six officers with powers to issue fixed penalties if they see offences taking place as they go about their normal duties.

The council heard that if people opt to pay the fixed penalty, the case does not proceed any further and there is no court prosecution. If someone refuses to pay, due process would include prosecution.

Coun Nott said that there had only been a limited number of prose-

cutions because, in the vast majority of cases, the fixed penalty is either paid, waived or there is insufficient evidence to justify a prosecution.

Although there had been a reduction in the number of dog fouling incidents since the introduction of these fixed penalties, with many dog owners now carrying plastic poop scoop bags, there were still some irresponsible dog owners who allow their pets to foul public areas. If complaints are made about a particular area, the wardens visit, but it has usually already been cleaned by the street cleansing team.

The council issued 158 fixed penalty notices in 2008-09 and 56 have been issued to date this year. The income raised is ploughed back into improving cleansing services and paying for more bins.



Local MP welcomes rail investment cash

LOCAL MP Madeleine Moon has welcomed a £1.1bn investment in electric rail, which will improve journeys for passengers in Bridgend and south Wales.

The Prime Minister and Labour's transport secretary, Andrew Adonis, unveiled £1.1bn plans last week for a major electrification of the rail network, of the London to Swansea and Liverpool to Manchester lines.

The Great Western electrification will bring electric inter-city trains

into Paddington, and busy holiday periods. Along Brunel's classic railway, for the first time.

The eight-year project will extend electric trains to Reading, Bristol and through the Severn Tunnel to Cardiff, Bridgend and Swansea, including commuter lines to Oxford and Newbury. It will mean the first electric trains ever running in Wales.

Madeleine Moon said:

"This is fantastic news for the people of Bridgend and Porthcawl,

not only will it enable speedier and more comfortable and reliable travel to London, it will hopefully ease traffic on the M4/M5 during those

into Paddington, and

busy holiday periods.

The government is

rightly committed to

investing in Britain's

future during the eco-

nomic downturn. This

investment will create a

21st century railway

which not only will be

greener and faster, it will

create investment and

jobs across the country.

"Rail electrification is

central to the low carbon

plan set out by Ed

Miliband last week. An

electric train emits

around a third less

carbon per passenger mile

than a diesel train – and

less than half as much as

a private car and a quar-

ter as much as a short

haul plane."

The scheme is being developed by the owners of the Vale Resort, the Leekes Group – an independent, family-run group of leisure and retail businesses owned by group chairman, Gerald Leek.

The Leekes Group purchased Hensol Castle Estate in 2003. It is responsible for the entire development and is managing construction, redevelopment and marketing of the location.

Ten mansion buildings set in the castle

grounds will all be

extensively redeveloped

and refurbished to create

the spacious apartment

collection.

Managing director of



ABOVE:
An example of the properties at Hensol Castle Park.

the Vale Resort and the new Hensol Castle Park, Stephen Leek said:

"We know that these apartments will have huge appeal from a wide cross-section of buyers.

Set within 150 acres of spectacular and historical parkland, phase one of the apartments was officially launched last week.

The scheme is being developed by the owners of the Vale Resort, the Leekes Group – an independent, family-run group of leisure and retail businesses owned by group chairman, Gerald Leek.

"In addition to our existing customers expressing interest, we have had enquiries from a number of Welsh people living in London and other parts of the UK who want a desirable second home in south Wales for weekend and midweek business visits.

"Add to that the number of sports stars that are interested in having a

home at Hensol Castle Park, and we have every belief that this residential scheme will be a huge success.

"The concept behind these apartments is that they offer contemporary living within a picturesque rural location, and with it a unique lifestyle choice – living next door to extensive luxury leisure, golf and spa facilities, as well as the capital city within 20 minutes' drive.

"We are well aware of market conditions but know that this development has a definite X-factor and something very valuable to offer in terms of its fantastic location and setting, and the interest that has been shown so far makes us feel optimistic."

Prices start from £290,000 up to £400,000.

London Olympics: 'the cash could be better spent'

OUR MP, Mrs Madeleine Moon, has recently written in this newspaper about the wonder and benefits of London winning the bid for the 2012 Olympics. But it was a bid based on lies.

will be much higher. This was all right, went the spin, because it was a great achievement for Britain...

We now know that the estimated cost used for the bid was less than 25 per cent of the real projected cost.

So what was the achievement?

Of course, there will be benefits, especially to London. And, of course, Wales will accrue some benefits, too.

But at what cost to all the other projects that have lost out due to the 'hoovering' of money from the Lottery to pay for the Olympics in London?

I sincerely hope that the London Olympics are a success, but I'm certain that better use could have been made of the money spent on them.

Alex Marshall, Pen-y-Fai

Who wants to build what and where?

MR J MELLOWES, REAR OF 35 WOODSTOCK GARDENS, PENCOED –

prune back overhanging branches to boundary of Oak tree.

Mrs M Mehrez, Angelton House, Angelton Road,

Penyfai – fell three elm trees and one ash tree, remove dead wood from crown of one ash tree.

Mr N Bullimore, Leamington Cottage, 5 Brickyard Lane,

Porthcawl – remove condition 3 of 07/888 to allow fence/structure vegetation to remain.

The council issued 158 fixed penalty notices in 2008-09 and 56 have been issued to date this year. The income raised is ploughed back into improving cleansing services and paying for more bins.

Bridgend – rear two-storey extension.

Noddfa Chapel Community, 75B Caerau Road, Caerau –

demolish existing building and change of use of land for a temporary car park for use by Noddfa Chapel.

Miss T Chapman, 14 Gelliara, Pencoed –

single storey extension to rear of property to provide bedroom and en-suite shower room.

Mr K Davenport, 8 Ewenny Close, Porthcawl –

single storey extension to front elevation to comprise cloakroom (wc) and utility room.

Mr S Lewis, 9 St Johns Drive, Porthcawl –

rear extension and garden store.

Mr SJ Richards,

Gwynfryn, Heol Las Maudlam, Bridgend –

demolish existing bungalow, construct detached garage with accommodation over, boundary walls and new access.

Mr P Pearsall, 48 Severn Road,

Porthcawl – single storey extension to side and rear of bungalow and extension to first floor bedroom and balcony.

Mrs P Watkins, 21 Brynderi, Bryntirion –

ground floor bedroom and en-suite extension to rear elevation.

Mr Vaughan, 12 Dan y Deri, Broadlands,

Bridgend – conservatory to rear elevation.

Mr S Ellis, 12 Nicholls Avenue, Porthcawl –

single storey extension

to existing dwelling.

South Wales Service Station, Gills of Maesteg,

Llywdarth Road, Maesteg –

refurbishment/extension of existing shop in garage and car parking.

Mr D Temme, 30 Carlton Place,

Porthcawl – single storey extension and extension to existing dormer.

Miller Contractors Ltd. land at Ty Bryn Terrace, Pencoed –

Amendment to plots 16 and 17.

Sustrans (DIY Streets) Planning, entrance to Heol degwm, North

Cornelly – new entrance feature incorporating the road name.

Shopping trolley, tyres swept up in beach-clean



What a load of rubbish! From left to right back row: Kerry James, Paul Bennett, Dave Davies, Helen Cornwall, Joanna Hobbs and Kate Elliott and left to right front row: Ian Roderick, Lisa Bennett and Maria Ashman.

TEAMWORK resulted in a clean sweep for the beach and river area at Ogmore-by-Sea recently, when a group of water workers got together with Keep Wales Tidy and Ogmore Angling Association.

Staff from Kelda Water Services, the company which manages wastewater services

across south Wales on behalf of Welsh Water, organised the clean-up, which saw a shopping trolley, a couple of dozen tyres and over 30 bin bags of rubbish being collected.

The water workers are keen to make a difference in their local communities and since the end of 2007 have dedicated over 500 hours to community projects such as this, collecting 106 bags, 10 skips and 16 tonnes of general waste.

Joanna Hobbs, Kelda Water Services community panel chair said: "This is our third visit in less than 12 months to Ogmore-by-Sea. Last year, we were here with

the Marine Conservation Society. This year, as we have developed good links with Keep Wales Tidy, we thought it would be a good idea to link up with them and local organisations such as the Vale Council and the Ogmore Angling Association.

"We want to have a positive impact on the communities and environment where we work on behalf of Welsh Water, and not only do colleagues get a sense of achievement but they also benefit from the team-building.

"On this occasion, it has been a case of the more the merrier!" she added.

'People of Wales can pull through together' Tackling cases of swine flu – in the Welsh way

by DR TONY JEWELL, WALES' CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

THERE IS NO DOUBT that the number of cases of swine flu in Wales will increase during the next few weeks, with further waves over the next year.

But we can all help to minimise the outbreak – if we pull together.

The most important message is – please don't turn up at your doctor's surgery or local hospital if you feel you have flu-like symptoms.

That only spreads the virus, perhaps infecting people at greater risk, such as young children, expectant mothers, or those with underlying health problems.

Instead, stay at home and use the phone or the internet to get advice.

You can call the swine flu information line on 0800 1 513 513 for recorded advice and the latest information.

Alternatively, visit www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk or www.wales.gov.uk/health

Then, if you are still concerned, contact NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647 or phone your GP who can provide diagnosis over the phone and

give the advice you need.

For most people, the flu virus is proving relatively mild – so they can self-care and recover well without the need for anti-virals.

In the case of high risk groups – for example, pregnant women, children under five years old and people with heart or lung disease – contact your GP straight away: antiviral treatment is more effective if given within 48 hours.

A lot of people will have heard press and TV coverage of the National Pandemic Flu Service (NPPS) that has been launched in England, where swine flu has spread more rapidly.

In Wales we have decided to continue to

provide advice through our existing NHS Direct Wales service, which is staffed by health professionals.

Our health service staff are currently developing new arrangements to handle the increase in enquiries based on the experience of colleagues in Scotland.

If the number of cases here escalates greatly, and we face operational problems, we will have the option of plugging into the NPPS.

But at the moment, the number of cases remains comparable to seasonal winter flu, so it makes sense for us in Wales to enhance existing NHS services that people know and understand.

At home, and out and

about, we can help limit the spread of the virus by good hygiene – we need to be vigilant about using tissues, binning them and then washing our hands, that is why our message is 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It'.

We are working hard to ensure a supply of vaccine sufficient for the whole population of Wales – but that will take some time and obviously the needs of high-risk groups have to be met first.

That is why it is crucial that during the coming months the people of Wales help the NHS and help each other – together we can pull through.

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Carnival time brings crowds to Porthcawl

PARKING was not easy in Porthcawl last Saturday, as any street anywhere near the carnival route was jam-packed.

The streets were lined with spectators and, after the procession had made its way to Porthcawl RFC's ground, it was standing room only as people queued for the fairground rides, to watch the attractions, or just for a drink or ice cream!

See next week's GEM for a full report and more photographs.



**Photos by
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Pencoed falls silent for farewell to hero Dane

RESIDENTS and war veterans from Pencoed turned out last week to pay tribute to Lance Corporal Dane Elson, who lost his life in Afghanistan.

His family asked that it be a service of thanksgiving for his life, and it took place in Salem Chapel, Pencoed.

Dane was then buried with full military honours at Pencoed Cemetery.

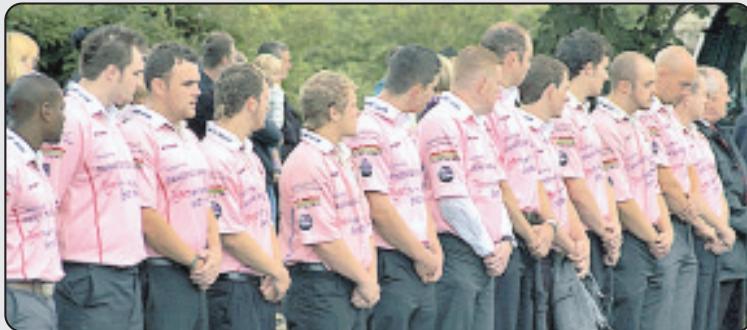
The services were taken by the Rev Nicholas Jones, the Vicar of Pencoed, and the Rev Paul Wright, the chaplain to the Household Division.

There were readings and tributes from fellow members of the Welsh Guards, and Stuart Elson, Dane's father, also paid a personal tribute during the service.

The hymns, 'Calon Lan', 'Cwm Rhondda', and 'Men of Harlech' were also sung.

At the cemetery, soldiers fired three volleys, and the Last Post was sounded, followed by a lament and silence, and then Reveille.

Dane's family paid the following tribute: "Dane was an amazing young man. He had a free spirit and a zest for life that was unmatched. "He lived life to the full and was full of fun



and laughter. He was only 22, but you could have written a book on his exploits.

"For such a young man, Dane touched the hearts of so many, simply because he was such a kind-hearted young man with the cheekiest of grins and he was a bit of a scallywag.

"He is deeply loved by all his family, as much as he loved them. Dane was brave, courageous and a fine soldier. He was proud to serve with The Welsh Guards.

"We are all so very sad and there is a void in our lives that can never be filled, but Dane will live in our hearts."

There followed a personal message from his mother, Deborah Morris: "Dane was the best son and brother any parent could have



wished for. He was kind and so gentle and always put everyone before himself, as he was doing when he died.

"He was and still is our big hero. Dane

loved his sport and was good at whatever sport he did, especially rugby. He will be so greatly missed by all who knew him.

"We cannot imagine

our life without him. His mates' nights out will never be the same.

"He was and always will be 'Mammy's little soldier'. God bless you Dane."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MANDY THOMAS

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24 BRISTOL ZOO excl entry	£18.00	£15.80
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27 WESTON SUPER MARINE	£14.00	£11.80
28 LLANDRINDOD WELLS VICTORIAN FESTIVAL	£13.00	£11.80
29 BATH & CRIBBES CAUSEWAY	£13.00	£11.80
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31 BANK HOLIDAY MYSTERY incl afternoon tea	£14.00	£12.80

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Regeneration forum: now The GEM can keep you up to date!

AGENDAS for future meetings of the Porthcawl Regeneration Forum will be provided to The GEM via the council press office.

This assurance has been given after a representative of a paid-for sheet was invited to attend the last meeting.

When this was queried by The GEM, which did not receive notification of the meeting, we were told that the minutes are public and future copies of the agenda will be provided to the council press office and supplied from there on request.

The GEM has been asking the council for information about the state of play with regard to the town regeneration. We understand this was the first meeting of the forum for a year.

Members heard the phasing of the proposed town regeneration has been altered so that the supermarket planned for the Hillsboro Place car park will now be done as the first phase.

Andrew Parry Jones, regeneration officer, said that the regeneration objectives remain the same, but the way of

delivering them has been slightly altered. He said that putting the supermarket ahead of the housing reflects current market pressures, and is a pragmatic approach to the issue.

The council has been attempting to appoint a developer for the scheme for some time.

Mr Parry Jones said that doing the supermarket first means that the new roads and other infrastructure needed for the regeneration can be put in place more quickly and will benefit the other elements of the scheme.

It is The GEM's

understanding that the company which develops the supermarket will have to put in this infrastructure, which includes drainage and car parking.

The council has also lodged a planning application to use part of the former Sandy Bay caravan park for car parking.

The old caravan park has lain unused and semi-derelict since it was closed some years ago by the council.

It is to be used as a temporary replacement car park for 1,100 cars instead of the present Salt Lake car park which is used by summer visitors.

It is to be developed under the regeneration scheme, and the proposal is to replace it on a temporary basis with a car park at Sandy Bay.

Sandy Bay has already been used at bank holidays as an overspill car park from Trecco Bay caravan park, which is next door. Access could be either from Rhych Avenue or Sandy Lane.

However, the longer-term position of car parking in Porthcawl is still uncertain as there are plans to build more houses on Sandy Bay – a part of the regeneration.

Other proposals under consideration include using part of the site for a new promenade, an area of public open space, a foreshore park, an extension to Griffin

Park and other leisure uses.

Its long term future use will be considered under the regeneration process.

Planning guidance for the whole of the regeneration area has been adopted by the council and will form the basis of future land usage.

What will then happen as far as providing a permanent replacement car park for the town is concerned, is unclear.

At the forum, officers spoke about providing a park and ride – from as far away as Stormy Down!

Other options are providing a park and ride at Rest Bay and one by the Newton-Nottage roundabout – although there is no car park at this location, so one would have to be provided.

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AIRPORT CHIEFS BACK ASSEMBLY'S RULING ON RHOOSE ACCESS ROAD

CARDIFF AIRPORT has backed the Welsh Assembly's decision not to build an airport access road, and instead target road improvements and more frequent bus and train journeys in the Vale.

An airport spokeswoman said: "With regard to the access improvements to Cardiff Airport, we broadly welcome the more pragmatic and sensible approach outlined by the Welsh Assembly and, in particular, to enhance frequency and quality of public transport options between Cardiff Airport and the city of Cardiff."

"The airport has for some time now questioned the notion of poor access to it and also whether this in itself could warrant such a significant road investment."

"Our view is that any significant infrastructural development, such as the options previously suggested, must be borne on the back of much wider economic and social benefits for and around the Vale."

The spokeswoman was anxious to stress that the proposed 'airport access road' would not have been just been to help air travellers, but the wider economy too. She explained: "Our concern throughout the road consultation

process has been that it was assumed the road was for the sole benefit of the airport – this of course was not the case."

"Perhaps it is this assumption which ultimately led to the demise of the road plans."

"If the various stakeholders had better articulated the economic benefits of the road within the Vale of Glamorgan, the public may have heard a different story."

She added: "We also welcome within the Assembly's National Transport Plan the desire to enhance international connectivity from Cardiff Airport."

Writing poetry has been a great gift in Dorothy's life

A COWBRIDGE woman has found comfort during the hard times in her life by writing poetry.

Dorothy Davies, of Tair Onen, who is now 80, is still putting pen to paper with her thoughts.

Mrs Davies has had many unhappy times, including being brought up in a children's home from the age of two to 11.

But she has enjoyed a wonderful marriage to her husband Bill, which has lasted 57 years to date.

Mrs Davies was brought up in Neath, and later Bridgend, but met her husband when she went on a day trip.

He came from Cardiff and they lived in the city for the first few years, when their two oldest children were born.

Both of these children suffered health problems and the couple were desperate for a home of their own, as they were living in rooms.

"My husband saw an advert for the Forestry Commission and the job came with a house," she recalled. "He got the job and we went to live in Brechfa near Carmarthen for three years."

Mr Davies then transferred with the commission to the Vale and the



Dorothy Davies, whose love of writing poetry has given her "huge comfort" over the years.

couple were allocated a house at Tair Onen.

"We lived in a different house at Tair Onen before moving to this one and we were able to buy it eventually when the Forestry decided they did not need so many workers. We have been at Tair Onen for 50 years," she said.

The couple had a further two children, and bringing up a family of four was a full time job for Mrs Davies.

Sadly, her eldest son

has died but she has a son and daughter living locally and one daughter in Grimsby. She also has two grand-daughters – Angharad and Eleri.

"I have written dozens of poems over the years and I have written them for people specially, or to mark special occasions," she said.

"I started writing

essays and poetry when I was still a child, but the majority have been written in more recent years."

She has collected the poems into a folder, which she has shown to a number of people, including Theda Williams in the Celtic Knot shop, Cowbridge.

"Theda has been very encouraging," she said. "I have shown her my poems and written specially for her."

One telling line in one of the poems reads: "I cannot stop myself getting older, but I can stop myself getting old."

And it is a philosophy that Mrs Davies fervently believes in.

Although she has health problems, including arthritis and osteoporosis, she remains active. She is a member of Zoar Chapel near the Aubrey Arms and also goes to St Nicholas WI.

"Poetry does not come easily to me," she said.

"But it comes when I really need to express myself."

"It's a gift which has been with me during the best and worst times of my life."



BRIDES & GROOMS

Kelly and Jason tie the knot on 'the perfect day'

ON May 29, Kelly Weavin and Jason Lewis were married at Cadoxton Methodist Church in Barry.

Following the ceremony, the newlyweds held a reception for family and friends at Cadoxton Conservative Club.

Kelly (25) and Jason (34) plan to go on honeymoon in the autumn.

Kelly told The GEM: "The weather on the day of the wedding was brilliant – it was boiling!"

RIGHT: Kelly and Jason.



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Why no men on the Labour list?

AM amazed that the Labour Party has announced that only women are wanted to apply to be on its shortlist of candidates for the Vale parliamentary seat at the next general election.

As a woman, I find this extremely insulting and patronising. It appears that qualifications for the position of a Member of Parliament are simply down to a matter of gender.

In this day and age of so called equality, how can this be possible?

Don't any men out there feel it's unfair to discriminate in this way?

J Evans,
Llantwit Major

GEM footnote: What do other readers feel about Labour's women-only ruling? Is it fair or unfair? Write to The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL; or email gem@internet-today.co.uk



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Top bands pledge return - including 'Neil Diamond'!

DIVERSITY, something for everyone - that was the maxim adopted by Dave Roberts, the man responsible for booking the acts for Llantwit Major's 2009 Summer Sounds festival.

Dave explained: "Terri (my wife) and I have striven to make the event as diverse as possible to cater for different musical tastes.

"The festival kicks off on the Saturday with live music at the Old White Hart - as soon as we announced we were going ahead, the landlord was in touch to say he wanted to get involved.

"One evening to note is on the Tuesday; the Ignite Band are appearing at Bethel Baptist Church. They are a Christian rock group who have performed all over the country.

"Another exciting youth event is the 'Open Mic' night at Llantwit Hall. It is being hosted by Major Music and the local skate group - there's a big crossover in membership.

"We've decided that one talented youngster from the 'Open Mic' night will get the chance of an early slot at the Precinct the next morning!"

There are classical offerings too.

"We're really pleased that Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society (CAOS) are back each year. It's a great testimonial for Summer Sounds that people want to return. This time CAOS' Viva to the Diva Productions is presenting 'A Night at the Opera'.

"Bridgend Male Voice Choir, which has close links to Llantwit Major, has a great repertoire and will be in St Iltyd's Church on Friday evening."

Dave is particularly enthusiastic about the Precinct event on Sunday. "It all starts at 11.30am and the final act, Big Mac's Wholly Soul Band, will take to the stage at 7pm. There will be eight or so groups, who will play for between 30 and 60 minutes.

Ticket line

TICKET information for some of the main shows is as follows:

The launch party takes place at the Old White Hart pub on Saturday, August 8.

On Tuesday, August 11, the festival moves to Bethel Baptist Church for The Ignite Band at 7.30pm, entrance free.

On Thursday, August 13, 'A Night at the

Opera' at St Iltyd's Church 7.30pm. Tickets (£7) from 01446 793010.

The Bridgend Male Voice Choir at St Iltyd's Church, 7.30pm on Friday, August 14, (tickets are £5 or £6).

The finale of the festival, on Sunday, August 16, is 'Free at the Precinct', starting at 11.30am.

"Neil Diamond Tribute is back again - the women of Llantwit would have strung me up if he hadn't been on the bill - he's got a fantastic voice!"

"The Amigos are making the trip up to Llantwit Major from Cornwall where they are appearing on the Saturday.

"Davy Cartwright plays on the West Country folk festival circuit and his set is a mixture of his own songs plus 'golden oldies' from the likes of the Beatles, Beach Boys, Carole King and James Taylor. "Llantwit bands to look out for are The New Druids, and The Smiths' Tribute Band."

The Precinct won't be bereft of food and drink: "There's going to be a bar, and Thai food which I can assure you is to die for!"

"We did not have one ounce of trouble last year - the people who turn up love music, a good atmosphere and socialising."

"For people who want to come from Bridgend and Barry, it's worth pointing out that it is so easy if you come by train. Just arrive in Llantwit and follow the sound of music to the Precinct."

"We couldn't do all this without the support of Filco, which has allowed us the use of the Precinct. "Filco is also raffling a 'trolley dash', with the money going to support Summer Sounds."

Local pub says 'welcome to town'



ABOVE: Elenid Carlig, of the Old White Hart, is looking forward to welcoming people to the first event of Summer Sounds on August 8.

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GYPSY - ONCE AGAIN THE BRIDGEND YOUTH THEATRE HITS THE HEIGHTS



ABOVE (left to right): Christie Saunders, Mel Stevens and Rasheeda Ali play three strippers in a house of burlesque.



ABOVE and BELOW: Two versions of the act featuring the talents of 'Baby June' (Tash Bryant).

THE Bridgend Youth Theatre performed their summer show last week in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl - a stunning version of the classic Broadway musical, *Gypsy*.

The show ran for three nights, and received wild applause on each night.

The summer show is, in some ways, a sad occasion, because it means saying goodbye to young actors who are now moving on to university or drama college.

However, for stalwarts such as Josh Lovell and Mel Thomas, it was a great way to finish!

(See page 20 for a GEM review.)

CAST list GYPSY in order of appearance:

Uncle Jocko – Scott Dale; *George* – Corey Bridgeman; *Clarence* (and his classical clarinet) – Lewis Scott; *Balloon Girls* – Maisie Kidd and Amy Osbourne; *Baby Louise* – Dayna Jaynes; *Baby June* – Kate Jones; *Rose* – Charlotte Bruton; *Pop* – Rhys Causon.

News Boys/Girls: Charlotte Evans Jones, James Evans Jones, Harriet Miller, Thomas Rowlands, Evan Laidler, Rebecca Green, Corey Dyer, Jaycie Dyer, Keighan Dyer, Maisie Kidd, Emily James, Chloe Atkinson, Jerry Lynn Graham, Lewis Scott, Nathan Williams, Molly Wright, Sophie Wells, Blythe Hughes Davies, George Neeson, Brittany Wilson, Amy Osbourne, Gabrielle David, Emily Wintle, Sarah Spencer, Lewis Smith, Lili Smith; *Weber* – Connah Andrews; *Herbie* – Liam James; *Louise* – Mel Thomas; *June* – Tash Bryant; *Tulsa* – Josh Lovell; *Yonkers* – Joe Wilshire Smith; *Angie* – Jack Gillard; *LA* – James

Photographs by JOE HOWE



Charlotte Bruton (Rose) and her daughters move on to another town.



Gillard; *Detroit* – Luke Bevan; *Philly* – Lewis Coster; *Biloxi* – Stefan Farmer; *Kringlein* – Lewys Steward; *Mr Goldstone* – Ieuan Briers; *Farmboys* – Corey Bridgeman, Stefan Farmer, Lewis Coster, Sam Sayce, Jamie Sayce, Gareth Taylor; *Miss Cratchitt* – Chelsey Gillard; *Hollywood Blondes*: *Agnes* – Sian Rowlands; *Thelma* – Roanna Lewis; *Marjorie May* – Lauren Saunders; *Edna* – Rebecca Morgan; *Dolores* – Carys Rowlands; *Gail* – Charlotte Littleford; *Elsie* – Chloe Carson; *Violet* – Mari Izzard; *Petunia* – Lowri Izzard; *Hollywood Blondes*: *Hazel Elstone*, Tash Bryant, Ceri Anne Thomas, Kate Thomas, Zoe Morgan, Dayna Jaynes, Jess Evans, Lowri Izzard, Mari Izzard, Leanne Adshead; *Pastey* – Scott Dale; *Tessie Tura* – Mel Stevens; *Mazepa* – Rasheeda Ali; *Cigar* – Jack Hughes-Davies; *Willy* – Sam Sayce; *Electra* – Christie Saunders; *Showgirls* –

Rachel Griffiths, Sian Rowlands, Roanna Lewis, Charlotte Littleford, Chelsey Gillard, Carys Rowlands, Rebecca Morgan, Chloe Carson, Jess Evans, Maya Marie Grant; *Chaperones* – Maya Marie Grant; *Trainees*: *Phil* – Luke Bevan; *Bourgeron Cochon* – Jack Gillard; *Cow* – Mel Thomas, Corey Bridgeman; *Mr Grantziger* – Sam Bennett; **Production team:** *Director* – Roger Burnell; *Assistant Director* – Xenia Yardley; *Choreography* – Lizzie Davies; *Macmillan*, Alyn Iorwerth Hawke; *Musical Director* – Michael Woodman; *Set Design* – Guy O'Donnell; *Scenic Artist* – Ellen Woods; *Lighting Design* – Mario Williams, Aaron Davies (trainee); *Costume Designer/Maker* – Emma Bevan; *Assistant Costume Designer/Maker* – Lezja Davies; *Production management* – Mario Williams, Xenia Yardley; *Stage Manager* – John Kirk; *Deputy Stage Manager* –



Tulsa (Josh Lovell) plans a song and dance number.



Blue flags award at Barry and Penarth



ABOVE: Coun Cox, works manager Colin Smith, Coun Ernest, and Council Leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, display the Blue Flag at Barry Island.

WHITMORE BAY (Barry Island) and Penarth Marina have each been awarded a prestigious Blue Flag for high quality.

Tories' summer drinks success

HEAVY rain did not dampen the recent summer drinks party held at Dyffryn Springs, by Dinas Powys and Wenvoe Conservative branches.

The National Assembly was represented by Nick Bourne AM, Leader of the Conservatives group and AMs David Melding and Alun Cairns.

Mr Mike Harvey, chairman of the Wenvoe branch and Mr Andy Robertson, chairman of Dinas Powys, welcomed the 100 members.

In a brief speech, Alun Cairns commented on the "lamentable support given to troops in Afghanistan by the present government," pointing out that the Americans had 100 helicopters to ours 13.

Nick Bourne AM commented on large gains made by the Conservatives in recent elections, pointing out that Dinas Powys Community Council had a Conservative chairman this year – Coun Margaret Hayley.

Vale Council leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, cabinet member for building and visible services, Coun Geoff Cox, and cabinet member for leisure and tourism, Coun Anthony Ernest, met at Whitmore Bay on June 10, to officially receive the flags from officials.

Coun Kemp said: "The international Blue Flag award scheme currently operates in more than 40 countries and acts as a guarantee that a beach or marina is one of the best in the world.

"We are delighted that both Barry and Penarth have received such global recognition; this is the first time a Vale marina has been credited, making it extra special."

SINCE first making waves with her roles in *Demolition Man* and *Speed*, Sandra Bullock has crafted a varied filmography across a multitude of genres.

Yet it is romantic comedies that have given Bullock the most success, with the likes of *Miss Congeniality*, *Two Weeks Notice* and *Forces of Nature* (to name but three) showcasing the actress' comedic ability.

Her latest film, *The Proposal*, plays in a similar vein, with Bullock as Margaret, a Canadian book publisher who is told that, due to visa issues, she must leave the country right away.

Desperate, she ropes in her assistant Andrew (Ryan Reynolds) to marry her in order to stay in the country.

Forced together, the pair travel to Andrew's home town for a birthday, intent on learning as much about each other as possible before they are questioned – but will this be the start of something more between the two of them...

There isn't a genre that is any more predictable than that marked 'romantic comedy'. After all, while other types of films can play with expectations and twist and turn you, the romantic comedy is all about two people who end up together at the end having learnt that they really do love each other.

It is a path that *The Proposal* makes no attempt to veer from, and while the end result is as predictable as you would imagine, thanks to some good comedic turns the film doesn't quite falter as much as you would imagine.

This is mainly thanks to the performances of both Bullock and Ryan Reynolds, who are both particularly good comedy performers and who spark the film, despite its overly predictable arc.

Bullock does a neat line in pratfalling comedy which she executes here very well and shows that she is one of the more gifted actresses in these types of films.

There is little demand performance-wise, but she carries off the role

well, and while playing a callous hard-nosed businesswoman, at least allows the faintest chink of empathy within the character to make you feel she isn't wholly beyond redemption.

As her put-upon assistant, Ryan Reynolds is hugely entertaining, charismatic with whipsmart putdowns.

The actor has followed a similar career path to Bullock, but his comedy skills are as sharp as ever here, making a perfect foil for Bullock's uptight persona.

The chemistry with the actress works well, and the pair really raise the film with their performances.

The supporting cast are all competent without stretching themselves, but the best turn comes from Betty White as Andrew's grandmother, all pithy asides and young-at-heart attitude, which raises the biggest laughs.

These three turns are wholly responsible for making the film far more entertaining than it should be.

Director Anne Fletcher is certainly at

home with this genre, having directed the similarly enjoyable-yet-slight *27 Dresses*, and delivers another competent effort here. She shoots the comedy well, bringing a few offbeat tones into what is a rather straightforward affair, with a bird of prey attack sticking out in the memory.

She also gets the pacing just right, even though the film falls into the familiar serious tones of the final act, the comedy being pared back in favour of 'emotion' that is difficult to muster given that the outcome is pretty obvious.

Similarly, the script from Pete Chiarelli, his first, accentuates the skills of Bullock and Reynolds, providing them with ample opportunities to mine the comedy, and by doing this takes the onus away from the generic conventions that seemingly must be adhered to.

It is a script that, much like the film, is rather over-familiar but at the same time reasonably entertaining – although you do wish that somebody could find a way of adding a little bit of intrigue, and

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

offer something different, to these types of film.

VERDICT – A comedy that is boosted by the turns of Sandra Bullock, Ryan Reynolds and Betty White, *The Proposal* smacks of the aftertaste of every other romantic film but at least offers something entertaining in lieu of its familiarity.

Pleasing, yet predictable, the performances are the main selling point, and enhance what is ultimately a run of the mill film. *Average*.

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Out and About with The GEM

Reader saw it in The GEM!



I THOUGHT you might like to see the result (above) of your news item in last week's GEM about the steam loco *Tornado* passing through Bridgend.

Keep up your good work, without which local people would always be in the dark.

Don Clark, Bridgend

PS: I saw it in The GEM!

What's On

Advice surgery

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Castledale ward - Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake and Karl Kuhnell - will hold their regular monthly advice surgery this Saturday, August 1, in the Drop-In Centre, 3 Dunlin Court, Thompson Street Estate, Barry, between 10.30am-12pm. No appointment necessary.

Contact Coun Chris Elmore on 07867 506116 for details.

Rummage sale

A RUMMAGE sale will be held in All Saints' Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, on Saturday, August 8, 10am-11.30am.

Entry 20p. All proceeds raised go to charity.

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- £5: 834620, 653228, 759516, 777452, 595166.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

NSPCC garden party basks in a warm glow...

A WARM and sunny afternoon greeted the 120 people who attended the annual garden party organised by Barry Central

Gardens.

Mr Lesley Hughes (chairman) greeted the guests - Coun Emlyn Williams, Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan and his consort Mrs Joan Williams; Coun Howard Hamilton, Mayor of Barry and his consort Mrs Carol Hamilton; Sara Edwards, president of Cardiff branch of NSPCC; Julie George and Jo Leonard, of NSPCC Cardiff headquarters.

A vote of thanks was given by Coun Emlyn

Williams and Coun Howard Hamilton.

Sara Edwards also thanked the committee for their continuous work for NSPCC.

The next event will be a coffee morning on Saturday, August 8, at 10.30am, at Lettons House, Lettons Way, Dinas Powys.

All are welcome.

Musical illusions

LOCAL vocal group Allegro are hosting a 'One Night Only' cabaret evening, featuring guest illusionist Ali Cook on Saturday, August 8, in Maesteg Town Hall at 7.30pm.

Ali Cook has had shows on Sky One and Channel 4. Cabaret seating is sold out but there are still a few balcony tickets left. For tickets contact Allegro on 07963 230427 or Maesteg Town Hall.

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Ancient church issues 'welcome back' invite

THERE will be a special welcome on August 5 for anyone who has been married or christened in the beautiful medieval church of Merthyr Dyfan, Barry.

The church will be open from 2pm-4pm and there will also be a second 'open afternoon' on September 2.

It is hoped all those with a personal, or family connection to the church, believed to be built on the oldest Christian site in Wales, will support the appeal for £25,000 that will allow the church to ring out again, and pay for essential repairs, a new drainage system and traditional lime plastering for the interior walls to prevent damp penetration damaging the ancient church.

The appeal has the support of Vale AM Jane Hutt, Barry writer and broadcaster Professor Deirdre Beddoe, Coun Rob Curtis of the Vale Council, and Ysgol Maes Dyfan and Oakfield Primary. Both schools use the church as an educational resource.

Much of the present church was built in 1,250 AD, including most of the walls, the font, the base of the preaching cross and the stone altar.

Donations to support the appeal can be sent to the Rector, Father Robert Parrish, Merthyr Dyfan Rectory, 10 Buttrills Road, Barry. (Telephone 01446 735943) or can be handed in at the morning service

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Owen is on the money opening Marie Curie fete

ON August 1, the Marie Curie hospice annual garden party and fete will take place in Penarth.

funds for the Penarth hospice.

"This fun-filled family event is suitable for everyone, so come along and enjoy a relaxing afternoon overlooking the sea while raising funds for a fantastic cause."

"It costs Marie Curie Cancer Care £3.9million to keep the hospice's 30-bed unit open and we need all of your help to continue to fund it."

"Last year, more than 500 local people were treated as in-patients in the hospice."

Claire Notman, community fundraiser, said: "We are very grateful to Owen Money for championing the garden party this year."

"We hope that with his added support and, (of course) that of the local community, we will raise even more

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BIG RIDE GARDENS

Gypsy - a musical story, or revenge against pushy showbiz parents?

THE latest production by the Bridgend Youth Theatre (BYT) - the classic Hollywood musical *Gypsy* - recently played for three nights at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, to wildly enthusiastic applause.

Given the BYT's track record, this is no great surprise. What's more, Roger Burnell, the director of the BYT knows this musical well. It is the third time he has directed it. Twice during his tenure at Porthcawl Comprehensive, and once more now.

So, before taking a look at the performances, what is it about the show that attracts him to it?

It could, of course, be because it is a great show, with no weak tunes. On top of that, there is both humour and real drama in the show.

However, I can't help wondering if, in some part, it is a teacher's 'revenge piece' on pushy parents.

After all, no matter what subject you teach, whether it be maths, sport, geography or drama - you must have to cope on a regular basis with, for instance, a father who thinks his son should be playing fly-half for the first team, or a mother who thinks her daughter is the *only* choice for lead in the school show.

Consider the plot of *Gypsy*. It might ostensibly be the story of how the famous burlesque stripper, Gypsy Rose Lee, got her start in the business, but it is dominated by her mother Rose - a mother who *always* knows best.

Rose takes her two children, Louise and June, out of school in her 'single-minded' pursuit of success in show business. She thinks she knows everything, but the truth is that she

REVIEW by PHILIP IRWIN

knows nothing. Over the course of 10 years, her daughters are trapped in a terrible stage act.

June is talented, but Rose has little imagination. Louise (who grows up to be Gypsy) is totally out of her depth and is deeply uncomfortable with having to parade her shortcomings every night.

Every now and again, Rose puts a new spin on the act, but it stays as corny and hackneyed as ever.

Eventually, a theatrical agent spots June's talent, and offers to put her into acting school and build her career. However, mother knows best, she crushes her daughter's dream, and off they go - back on the road.

She can't even spot talent. One of June's backing dancers, Tulsa, is a fine dancer and choreographer but Rose keeps him doing the same old routine until he and June can't stand it any longer and run off together.

Does Rose get the message now? Of course not. Now, poor Louise has to carry the burden of her mother's dreams and, although she eventually gets lucky and finds her niche as Gypsy Rose Lee, it doesn't let Rose off the hook in my eyes.

The Hollywood film versions, with first Rosalind Russell and then Bette Midler playing Rose, engineered a mother and daughter reconciliation - a 'Gee mom, I love you' moment.

However, Rose isn't let off so lightly in the BYT version.

Rose (a bravura performance by Charlotte Bruton) finishes her final number, when she pours all her own frustrations into 'Roses' Turn'. Then she breaks down and lies benefit on the stage.

She does get a hug

from her daughter, but it is out of pity, not a gesture of forgiveness.

The pushy parent gets her just desserts.

So, in many ways, the show depends on Charlotte Bruton making us like Rose, despite her selfishness. She has to show her charm and capture her energy.

If the audience turns against Rose, then the show falls apart.

As a BYT regular, Charlotte has always had a fine voice, but it is great to report that in this show, she proves that she can act as well.

Rose is a fast-talking con woman, and the only quibble I can come up with is that once in a while, she talked a little bit too fast.

Her singing on the other hand, was terrific throughout, whether in the big numbers like 'Everything's Coming Up Roses' or in the charming ones such as 'Small World' or 'You'll Never Get Away From Me' - where she is charming Herbie, the agent who is under her spell.

Liam James plays Herbie, and does well in a difficult role.

Throughout the show, Rose walks all over him until he finally finds a backbone and leaves her. Liam gives her a dignity and warmth that makes you really feel for his plight.

In the role of Louise, Mel Thomas is another who proves how much she has come on in the last few years. Her acting has always been good, but on songs such as 'Little Lamb' she revealed that she has a really fine singing voice.

She also handled the transformation from shy girl to seductive strip tease artist really well, and that acting ability came to the fore when she joined Tash Bryant (June) for the two daughters to sing 'If Momma Gets Married'.

Tash is still young, but has already played a huge variety of roles with the BYT. As June, the teenager forced by her mother to keep playing a 10-year-old, she was funny and was, once again, completely at home on the stage. She is one to watch in the next few years.

The show is full of fine cameos, but Josh Lovell, like Mel Thomas another BYT regular, had his chance to shine as Tulsa, the young dancer who runs off with June.

His scene with Mel, where he tells Louise about his plans for his act, was perfect, and beautifully choreographed.

It is the first moment when Louise starts to relax and comes out of her shell and it worked really well.

Of course, there are

three cameos that tend to steal the show. As the three strippers, Mel Stevens (Tessie Tura), Rasheeda Ali (Miss Mazepa) and Christie Saunders (Elektra) grab their chances to get the audience roaring with laughter.

I thought Mel, as the ballet-influenced Tessa, was terrific, but Mazepa always gets the best line. Has anyone written a funnier couplet than Sondheim's 'If you're going to bump it, bump it with a trumpet'?

So, three nights for a superb show from a company that shows every sign of having another wave of young talent moving forward as Mel Thomas, Josh Lovell, Charlotte Bruton, and many others, move on to drama college or elsewhere.

Can I come up with a complaint? Only my disappointment that it was only a three-night run. A show this good should have sold out for a week. (Although it would have been hard work for Charlotte).

I don't know what the BYT has to do to get a Bridgend county borough audience to grasp what a jewel we have here.

The mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Jeff Tildesley, saw the show twice, the first time on the opening night in the company of various other borough mayors and lord mayors. He told The GEM: "These mayors see their fair share of school productions, and they were staggered by how good this one was.

"They insisted that I let the cast know how impressed they were, so I went backstage on Saturday night after the show to tell them all."

Personally, I think the problem is that people overpraise school shows. Here in The GEM, we can guarantee that after every single school show, someone will write in and say that "the performances would have graced a West End stage".

You will never hear that from Roger Burnell, even though he has seen a fair number of students go on to do just that. Even the best of his students leave knowing that they still have to work to develop their skills.

This year's show was, as with so many other BYT shows, a terrific evening's entertainment. I am not going to throw around extravagant West End comparisons, but I will offer this one.

Given a choice between watching some well-known actors (or soap stars) going through the motions in a touring show in Bristol, Cardiff or Swansea, and seeing the latest crop of Bridgend Youth Theatre talent, I know which I would choose every time.

The 85-year-old resident allowed the man in

'Where I stand on the McKinnon affair...'

by MADELEINE MOON, MP FOR BRIDGEND

MARK TWAIN said: 'Never pick a fight with a man who buys his ink by the barrel' - highlighting the problem of fighting back in any disagreement with the media.

The role of a free press is a vital tenet of any healthy democracy; there has to be a right to report the facts, to give opinions, to offend and be offended.

In this country, we rightly treasure this liberty. Within this broad maxim, however, that free press has a responsibility also in how it reports; a responsibility not to distort the facts, to oversimplify complexities, not to libel, and not to prevent a fair trial.

What has prompted me to write about this? Well, the specific situation I wish to discuss here touches upon this latter, broad issue.

I and a number of colleagues were labelled 'turncoats' in the Daily Mail recently (July 16). The accusation arose as we signed 'three parliamentary motions, dating back to 2005, opposing the Extradition Act and sending Gary McKinnon to the U.S. for trial' - while subsequently voting with the government in an Opposition Day Debate titled US-UK Extradition Treaty.

Subsequently, I received a number of anonymous, offensive emails.

Before attending to the accusations, some background: Gary McKinnon admitted hacking into 97 US government computers between February 2001 and March 2002, causing damage estimated at £370,000 and what US prosecutors call 'the biggest military computer hack of all time'.

The Law Lords consideration of the appeal states: 'Having gained access to these computers, the appellant deleted data from them, including critical operating system files from nine computers, the deletion of which shut down the entire US Army's Military District of Washington network of over 2,000 computers for 24 hours, significantly disrupting Governmental functions; 2,455 user accounts on a US Army computer that controlled

access to an Army computer network, causing these computers to reboot and become inoperable; and logs from computers at US Naval Weapons Station Earle, one of which was used for monitoring the identity, location, physical condition, staffing and battle readiness of Navy ships, deletion of these files rendering the base's entire network of over 300 computers inoperable at a critical time, immediately following September 11, 2001, and thereafter leaving the network vulnerable to other intruders.'

When traced by Britain's national hi-tech crime unit, he was charged by US authorities.

After the signing of the 2003 US/UK extradition treaty and the 2003 Extradition Act extradition proceedings began. Gary McKinnon has been appealing against extradition since that time.

In 2008 he was diagnosed as suffering from Aspergers syndrome.

The government have agreed to comply with US requests for McKinnon's extradition, the Crown Prosecution Service arguing that the damage caused by the offence took place in the US, and that the investigation and most of the witnesses and evidence were located there.

In February, the director of public prosecutions, Keir Starmer, said there was not enough evidence to try him in the UK.

McKinnon has appealed at each legal stage against his extradition. So far, the US extradition request has faced a challenge by magistrates' courts, the High Court, the House of Lords, and now the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Even now there are separate judicial reviews being undertaken.

That is the background - so back to the specific accusations: The Mail has been vociferously supporting McKinnon's attempts to avoid extradition.

I have no problem with this; it is the right of a free media to pick and choose its issues and causes. I have no objection and fully understand McKinnon's desire to use every legal means to avoid extradition.

I have not visited American prisons, but if half of what we see in films is true, they are

nasty, vicious places.

On July 15, the Conservatives tabled a motion, which was defeated by 290 votes to 236, after a two-hour debate, calling on the government to review the 2003 Extradition Act 'in light of a series of high-profile cases' with a view to amending it.

Subsequently, due to how I voted, I and others were labelled 'turncoats'.

Now, at this stage I have a problem, and it is a problem of facts. I did not, as the paper claims, sign three parliamentary motions opposing the Extradition Act and sending Gary McKinnon to the U.S. for trial.

In fact, I have never signed any motion with regard to McKinnon, as I do not believe it is right or proper for politicians to interfere in ongoing legal proceedings.

I did sign a motion early into the 2005 Parliament which urged 'the Government to defer approving the extradition to the United States of any British subjects until such time as the United States Senate ratifies the Extradition Treaty of March 2003'. That Extradition Treaty was ratified in 2006.

I could not support the motion before the House on July 15. Some members may have been voting in relation to high-profile court cases - specifically the case of Gary McKinnon.

I was voting against the review of the Extradition Act 2003, legislation which to date legal experts tell me has worked well. Either as a country we refuse to extradite any of our citizens to countries where we are critical of their prison systems, or we allow the due process of law to decide if a case for extradition has been met.

You can read the Law Lords Judgement, and the Commons debate on the House of Commons website.

To reiterate, I have no problem with the Mail disagreeing with my vote or my view. I do have a problem, however, with the distortion of facts.

As an MP, in my defence against such inaccurate reporting, I can only point to the facts, explain my reasoning, and hope that people will listen.



An e-fit of a suspect.

Police in hunt for distraction house burglars in Maesteg

POLICE in Bridgend are investigating two distraction burglaries which occurred at properties within three miles of each other.

A spokesperson stated that the first incident was at an address on Coronation Road, Llanyngwyd, at about 12.30pm on July 22.

A white male, aged around 18 or 19 years old and wearing a dark track suit and navy trainers with a white stripe, claimed to be installing a kitchen in a nearby property, and asked to check water pressure. He spoke with a Cardiff accent.

The first man is described as white and aged in his mid 20s.

He was about 5ft-10in tall and of medium build. His hair was quite distinctive; it was jet black, quite thick and with a

to try some taps, but straight fringe. He spoke when the man asked to go upstairs, the resident said that it would not be necessary. When the suspect realised there was another person in the house, he left immediately.

The second was some 45 minutes later at a house on Upper Street, Maesteg, a house also occupied by an elderly resident.

Two men called at the address with a similar story, asking to check water pressure.

The first man is described as white and aged in his mid 20s.

He was about 5ft-10in tall and of medium build. His hair was quite distinctive; it was jet black, quite thick and with a

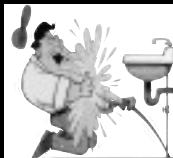
ting these descriptions in either area to come forward with information.

"It is also possible that the suspects tried other addresses in the area.

"We would like to hear from anyone who may have turned away from their homes people matching these descriptions".



Mel Thomas as Gypsy Rose Lee



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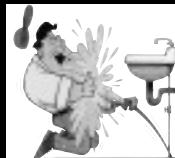
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Birth Notices

Congratulations
**Sophie Nia
Roberts**

Born July 22nd to Sam & Barrie, weighing 8lb 11½ oz.

Sister to Tomas.

All our love from Granny, Grandpa and all the family.

xxxxxx

Engagements

Congratulations
**Ceri Jenkins
&
Nicholas Hunt**

on your Engagement on July 14, 2009

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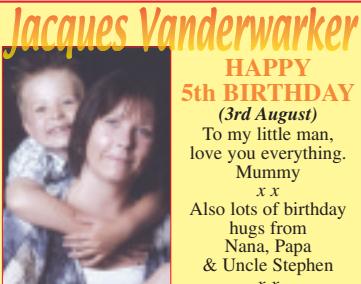
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Kevin John POOL**
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"If you feel a gentle breeze,
Or hear the softest sigh,
You will know it's our birthday wish,
Travelling so high.
Catch this love we're sending,
It's the best we can do,
How we wish with all our hearts,
We could spend the day with you."

You are so sadly missed Kev, but you will never be forgotten. The pain of losing you doesn't get any easier - Always in our hearts.
Love Mum, Dad and family in Portsmouth

**Birthday memories of
Thomas K Forman (Joe)**
31 July 1925 -
14 January 2009
My love for you was special,
A love that's warm and true,
and I was truly blessed
when I belonged to you.
Love as always,
your wife Gwyneth.

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With all our love on your
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From all your Grandchildren
& Great Grandchild xxx

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BARRY CENTRAL TURN THE BOWLING TIDE

AFTER several weeks of defeats, Barry Central entertained Rhosneir Bowls Club in a Munro Cup game and managed to win by 12-2, with the Central bowlers winning on three rinks to one.

The results were as follows: Rink one: G Thomas 22, B Ewer 14; Rink two: H Spencer 19, L Parsons (Jnr) 18; Rink three: J Bratcher 11, A Ball 15; Rink four: E Hudd 23, E Morris 7.

The victory over Rhosneir by 75-54 gave the Central team a great incentive to challenge their next opponents.

Central looked forward to entertaining the league leaders Senghenydd at Gladstone Gardens.

Alan Davies and John Jones proved to be the best of the home rinks.

Alan's rink found themselves equal on shot after 10 ends, but after the 12th end Alan's rink surged forward to win by eight shots.

John Jones' rink proved to be too good for the opposition and after 14 ends were winning by 12 shots, with the opposition unable to gain any advantage.

The other two rinks did not fare as well as the others. Ted Hudd's rink had a tough time and found themselves behind after 14 ends.

After the 15th end, the visitors picked up 11 shots without reply to win by nine shots.

Dave Roach's rink had a torrid afternoon. Scores were level pegging after 10 ends, but the opposition gained eight shots on consecutive ends, resulting in Dave's rink salvaging a deficit of a couple of shots.

By scoring five shots on the last three ends, this was enough to reduce the deficit to two shots.

The results were as follows: Rink one: D Roach (capt) 17, K Carter 19; Rink two: A Davies 22, D Pritchard 14; Rink three: E Hudd 15, K Davies 24; Rink four: J Jones 27, G Cross 13.

The overall result was a victory for the home side by 81-70 which will, hopefully, secure their position in Division Three.

The club now look forward to the challenge of facing Llanwit Major on Saturday, and also playing on Wednesday of next week in the Munro Cup - it will be interesting who gets the upper hand prior to next Saturday.

As part of the club's centenary year, members look forward to the visit of the president of the Welsh Bowling Association.

Members are looking forward to extending their hospitality to the players who will attend and assure them of a cordial welcome, and particularly to the president himself.

Maximum points for Athletic bowlers

SKIP Milton Eskins helped steer Barry Athletic's PG2 squad to victory with another top rink performance at Barry Plastics, Sulby on Saturday.

Milton's line-up of young lead Steve McKernan, club stalwart Ron Glaves and Ivor Stevenson earned a 27-17 win that lifted Athletic to an overall 74-69 triumph - and 10 points.

The previous week, the same rink had registered a runaway score against Pontyclun in a

thrilling match at the Island, giving the Athletic a one-shot match win.

The four bowlers produced consistent form throughout at Sully.

Gareth Humphreys skipped the other winning rink (18-10) that featured Derek Coombs, captain Eric Booker and Bill Summerrell.

This weekend, the PG1 team travel to Ely Valley, while the PG2 side entertain Llanbradach.

On Sunday morning, the annual Ron Thomas Open Pairs Competition gets underway at the Island in what is a popular week-long event.

Scores: PG2 at BP Sully - S McKernan, R Glaves, I Stevenson, M Eskins 27 - K Tucker, D Goodman, M Morgan, E Robert 17.

D Coombs, E Booker, W Summerrell, G Humphreys 18 - J Mulcock, B Hogg, G Trickett, G Williamson 10.

A Pidduck, J Jupp, B Turner, D Newman 16 - P Robbins, W Hayward, A Goddard, P Jenkins 20.

A Thomas, P Clarke, G Thomas, A Mintern 13 - B Curtis, D Dyer, V Messer, D Clayton 22.

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06 1.0i Vibe 3dr Hatch

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CITROEN C3
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08 1.6HDi 16v VTR+ Diesel Est
07 Grand 2.0i 16v VTR

CITROEN C5
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08 1.6 HDi VTR+

CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE
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09 1.6i 16v VTR 5-dr Estate
08 1.6i 16v Forte 5-dr Estate
07 1.6i 16v Forte 5-dr Estate
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Silver, 4,737 miles £8,995



COWBRIDGE BOWLS CLUB NEWS

ONLY two games were played last week, both ending in defeats for Cowbridge Bowls Club.

First the ladies, in their league match away to Llanwit Major, lost 33-63.

With only May Jones' rink of Lynda Wilson, Pat Houldsworth and Janet Legg winning 17-9. Joan Bradley's rink, lost 8-25, and Judy Springett's rink lost 8-29.

The men didn't fare any better, in their away fixture at Taffs Well, losing 50-98.

Roger Barwick again winning on the last end for two valuable points, with the help of Ron Frayling, John Trott and Mike Bradley. Score: 18-16.

The other three rinks all lost badly: Brian Kent's rink 9-27; David Jones' rink 14-22 and Byron Richards' rink 9-33.

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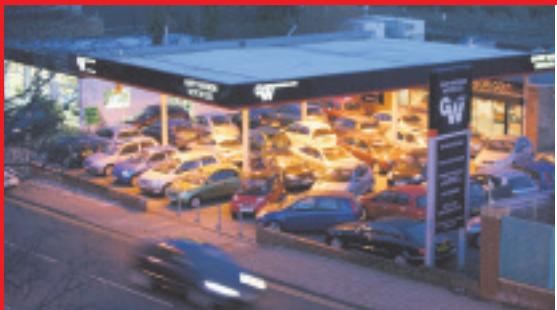
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05	54 VW Golf 1.6 Fsi (115ps) SE 5-dr Hatchback	In New River Blue with anthracite interior, climate control, cruise control, cd, only 42,490 miles	£7,495
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07	07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2i 16v SXi 3-dr Hatchback	In black sapphire with black interior, air con, alloy wheels, cdm colour coded bumpers, only 19,615 miles	£7,495
07	07 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr Hatchback	In aluminium silver with Madison graphite interior, air con, cd, electric front windows, only 9,120 miles	£6,495
07	07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback	In metallic black with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, front electric windows, only 19,005 miles	£6,495
07	07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5-dr Hatchback	In chemical grey with drop blue black interior, central locking, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 22,120 miles	£5,795
06	56 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback	In tonic blue with tungsten/denim interior, air con, alloy wheels, quick clear screen, cd, front fogs, only 24,250 miles	£5,995
06	06 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 3-dr Hatchback	In onyx black with madison grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, low insurance, only 14,545 miles	£5,995
06	06 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback	In nautical blue with jacquard black interior, front fogs, alloy wheels, CD, only 35,870 miles	£5,995
06	56 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 12v Urban 3-dr Hatchback	In raven black with black matrix interior, electric windows, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 16,465 miles, £35 a year tax	£5,995
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05	05 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 3-Dr Hatchback	In metallic tonic blue with ebony interior, 17" upgraded alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 28,445 miles	£4,995
04	04 FIAT Punto 1.2 16v Active 5-Dr Hatchback	In crystal metallic with grey tek interior, immobiliser, electric front windows, colour coded bumpers, only 10,170 miles	£3,795
03	03 TOYOTA Yaris GS 1.0L Petrol 5-dr	In dark green, with grey interior, central locking, CD, only 63,500 miles	£3,495
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04	04 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 VVT Expression 5-Dr Hatchback	In pacific blue with papyrus beige interior, climate control, front fog lights, panoramic roof, CD, only 41,580 miles	£4,695
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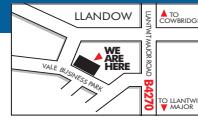
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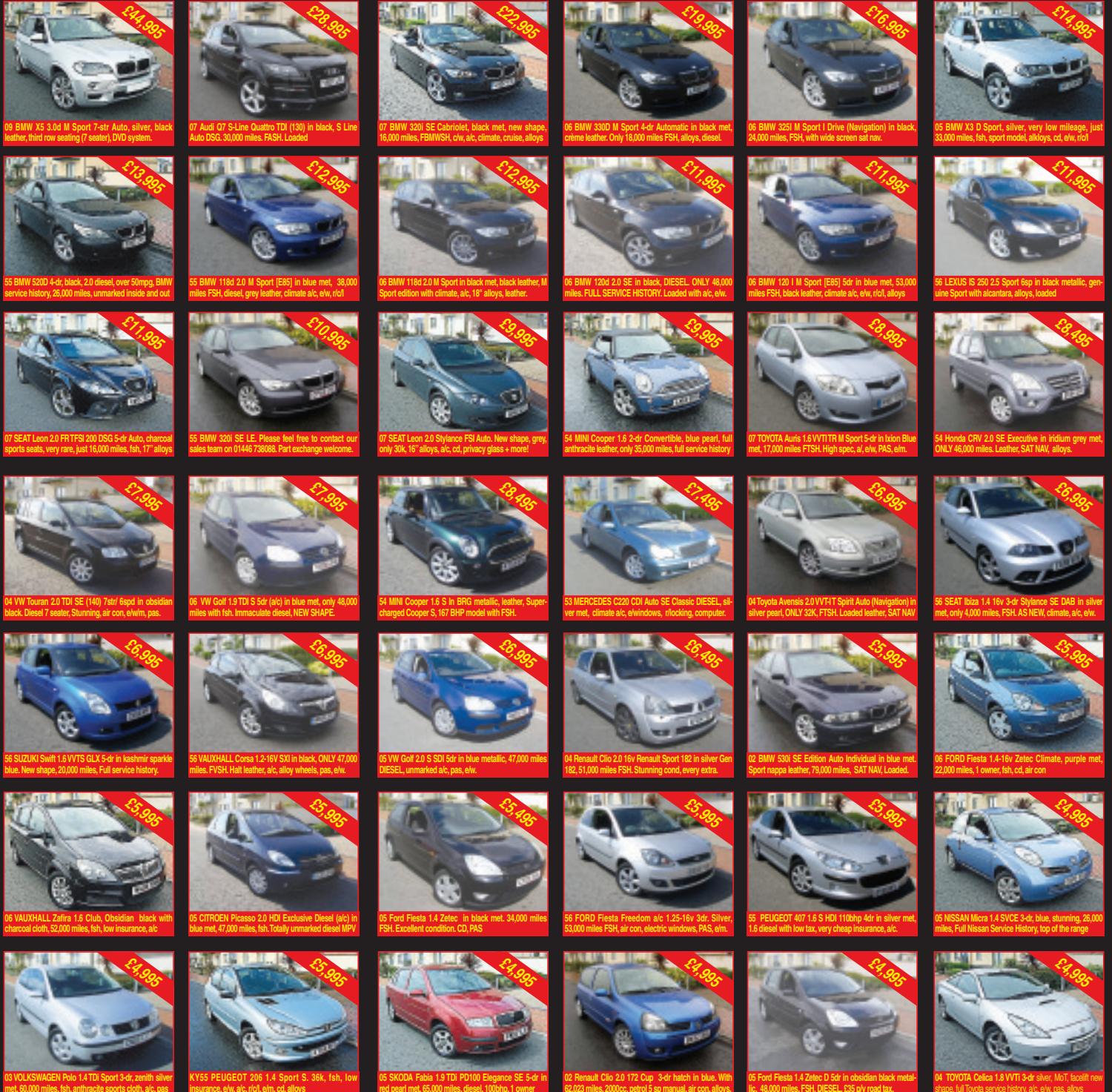
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55 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v SXi (80) Twin Port 3-dr, Silver metallic, remote locking, cd, low ins. group



52 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 S 3dr (55) azur yellow, ONLY 52,000 miles, a/c, alloys, a/c, power steering, CD, e/w.



53 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 T2 VVT-i 3dr in blue met, ONLY 30,000 miles, FSH, excellent condition, e/w, low insurance



04 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Life 5dr in green metallic, 45,000 miles LOW INSURANCE GROUP 2



53 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.3 CDTI Design 5dr in green met, STUNNING DIESEL, FSH, Very economical, P/S, r/f, cd.



03 FORD Ka 1.3i Luxury black, 48,000 miles, fsh, leather, a/c, pas, group 3 ins, low tax, immaculate cond



03 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LX Auto 3dr in red, power steering 5dr hatch, air con, e/w, r/f, low tax band.



53 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 3-dr in blue, only 35,000 miles, fsh, a/c, e/w, pas, e/m, only group 3 insurance



Y Peugeot 206 2.0 GTI SP 3dr in sirus silver met, Genuine SP with FSH, Full black leather, climate control.



03 Rover Streetwise 1.4 S 3dr in red met, ONLY 62,000 miles, STUNNING condition.



03 ROVER 75 1.8T Club SE Turbo, immaculate, 44,000 miles, fsh, full heated leather, e/pack, factory alloys

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51 LAND ROVER Defender 90 TD5 Pick Up LE in tornado red covered ONLY 60,000 miles complete with FULL SERVICE HISTORY	£7,995
56 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 T Spirit 3dr in silver met, new shape, ONLY 25,000 miles, FTSH. Top of the range with a/c, CD MP3, WMA, e/m, loaded	£7,995
03 MERCEDES C180 Kompressor Auto Classic SE light blue met, ONLY 52,000 miles FSH. Auto Air con, climate, alloys, r/c, e/w, e/m, PAS	£6,995
07 VOLKSWAGEN Caddy 1.9 140 C20i in white, ONLY 28,000 miles FVWSH, genuine VW integrated CD player, remote locking, PAS	£6,995
FIAT Punto 1.9 JTD M-JET 130 Sporting black met, ONLY 20,000 miles with FIAT SERVICE HISTORY. New Shape, Alloy wheels, DIESEL...6,99507 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate TDCi 5dr in banish blue, A Superb late 1400cc diesel with A/C & technology pack, £35 Road Tax	£6,495
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RENAULT Master 2.5 LH35 TD (120) 3.5 LWB HT in pastel orange, NO VAT. Excellent condition 2.5 Turbo DIESEL DCI 120 PS ONLY 33,000 MILES	£5,995
05 PEUGEOT 206 GTI 2.0 3dr (lthr) blue met, 30,000 miles FULL SERVICE HISTORY Full black leather, climate controlled air conditioning	£5,995
05 MG TF 1.8 Sports 135 2dr in black covered ONLY 19,000 miles Unmarked, 135 ps	£5,995
03 TOYOTA Hilux D-4 D EX 4x4 Pickup (liftit) In red, late generation D4-D DIESEL. 4 Wheel Drive model, VAT Free with RR diff lock, PAS, central locking, SONO audio system	£5,995
54 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 5dr in stratos blue, lovely new shape yaris 5dr with just 27,000, PAS, e/w ideal small eco car	£5,495
50 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate TDCi 5dr in factory black, Very pretty 5 door 1400 cc Diesel, With A/C. Massive economy	£5,495
53 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 Twist 3dr In iridium grey met, ONLY 32,000 miles, FULL SERVICE HISTORY. CD player, air conditioning, alloy wheels	£5,145
51 MAZDA MX-5 1.8 in blue metallic, face lift model, ONLY with FSH. Beautiful condition throughout, alloys, e/w, CD player, e/m, Unmarked	£4,995
04 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 5dr in silver met, ONLY 54,000 miles FSH. Unmarked, LOW INSURANCE, cheap road tax. Power steering, windows	£4,995
55 RENAULT Clio 1.6 Dynamique 1.6 3dr silver, ONLY 28,000 miles FSH, air con, electric windows, PAS, e/m, ONLY GROUP 3 insurance	£4,995
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03 FORD Focus 1.8 Epsort 3dr in black, ONLY 43K, FSH. Stunning condition leather, a/c, alloys	£4,995
05 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Ghia 5dr in silver met, ONLY 21,000 miles ONE OWNER, a/c, alloys, loaded	£4,995
03 SMART Four Two 1.0 3dr Sema Passion Brabus in silver, FULL BRABUS, 37,000 miles, FULL SERVICE HISTORY	??????
05 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus Sport 3dr in silver, ONLY 53,000 miles FSH, air con, electric windows, remote locking, a/c, e/m, ONLY GROUP 3 insurance, low tax band. Part exchange welcome, and many finance packages available	£4,995
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03 MAZDA 6 2.0 S (a/c) 5dr Estate in mint met, 2003 model ESTATE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY	£4,995
Y TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi 190T Sport In blue met, FSH, air con, e/windows, remote locking, alloys, e/m, PAS, Stunning condition	£4,294
02 BMW 320i SE Touring in grey met. Facelift Estate, FSH, a/c, alloys, climate, cruise	£3,995
04 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Automatic Climate a/c in violet grey. Top of the range Auto Excellent condition throughout 5dr hatch with FULL SERVICE HISTORY. Air conditioning, alloy wheels, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, heated front screen. Must be seen	£3,995
05 VOLKSWAGEN LT35 TDI MWB In white full VW service history, in built office room with rear cab storage. POWER STEERING, DIESEL	£3,995
04 RENAULT Clio 1.2-16v Dynamique 5dr in white, ONLY 36,000 miles. Low ins grp 3, low tax band, pas, CD, e/w, alloys	£3,995
55 FORD Ka 1.3 Collection 3dr In azur blue met, ONLY 36,000 miles, FSH, Grp 3 ins, MAIN DEALER SERVICED, e/w, a/c, E3,995 T MAZDA MX-5 1.8i Cabriolet 10th Anniversary Edition in blue. RARE LTD Ed. UK CAR Leather/ alcantara, alloys	£3,995
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02 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Life 5dr silver, electric windows, remote locking, PAS, e/m. ONLY GROUP 3 insurance	£2,995
03 RENAULT Clio 1.1 3dr Please feel free to contact our sales team on 01446 738088, or call Tim on 07815 737694. Part exchange welcome, and many finance packages available	£2,995
51 ROVER 75 2.0 5DR DIESEL 4dr in blue metallic, 66,000 miles DIESEL engine, Stunning condition	£2,995
03 Ford Ka 1.3i Collection Silver, 38,000 miles FSH, power steering, Grp 3 insurance, low tax, immaculate condition	£2,995
04 DAEWOO Matiz 1.0 SE 5dr in silver, 5dr in silver, LOW INSURANCE, cheaper tax	£2,995
52 RENAULT Clio 1.2-16v Expression 5dr in yellow met, covered ONLY 66,000 miles. Immaculate 5dr, GRP 3 insurance, a/c, pas, e/w	£2,995
52 FORD KA 1.3 Style 3dr, 46,000 Miles Silver, 46,000 miles FSH, power steering, Grp 3 insurance, low tax, immaculate condition	£2,795
Y PEUGEOT Expert 1.9 Diesel Panel Van in white, low mileage DIESEL	£2,495
PEUGEOT 306 2.0 HDI LX 5dr in ika gold metallic. Extremely economical DIESEL 5dr hatch in fantastic condition. Full charcoal velour interior, alloy wheels, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, CD player. Capable of over 50 MPG	£2,495
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W FORD Escort 1.6 5dr Finesse in blue, completely original covered ONLY 56,000 miles.; Estate in fantastic condition	£1,995
02 HYUNDAI Amica 1.0 GSi 5dr green metallic covered ONLY 30,000 miles with FULL SERVICE HISTORY, air conditioning, power steering	£1,995
S HONDA Civic 1.5 LSV ITEC 5dr Hatch in red, ONLY 84,000 miles with service history. Fantastic condition	£1,995
W RENAULT Clio 1.2 Grande 3dr in silver met, excellent value part ex to clear. 99,000 miles MOT. Excellent condition	£1,995
R FORD Escort 1.8 GTI 3dr 68,000 mile car with SERVICE HISTORY. In Calypso blue metallic, genuine 3dr GTI completed original	£1,995
X FORD KA Now 1.3 3dr Red, 56,000 miles FSH, power steering, Grp 3 insurance, low tax, immaculate condition	£1,795
X FIAT Punto 1.2 Mira 3dr City In topaz blue metallic, covered ONLY 73,000 miles. ONLY GROUP 2 insurance, and low tax band	£1,795
X FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5dr in red, ONLY 66,000 miles. Beautiful condition, pas	£1,795
N RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique Auto Totally unmarked finished in moonstone silver with charcoal wheels, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, power steering, automatic rain	£1,495
R CITROEN Saxo 1.1 16v 5dr in silver, /EX to clear on trade basis, MOT and 2 month tax	£995
L DATSUN Stanza 1.8 SGL 5dr in almonde red pearl. Completely original, genuine 47,000 mile, AUTOMATIC example. A now, collectable, and ultra reliable japanese classic. Will not disappoint at	£995
L TOYOTA Celica 2.0 3dr in red, later shape ST202 in great condition 12 month MOT	£995
C NISSAN Cherry 1.3 SGL 3dr Completely original car covered ONLY 31,000 miles. FULL SERVICE HISTORY, 12 months MOT	£995
F FORD Fiesta 1.1 3dr Classic MK2. ONE LOCAL OWNER. ONLY 32,000 miles WARRENTED	£995
H NISSAN Sunny 1.3 16v Van FWD In Arctic White, a superb project - a very early Japanese icon from the 1990's. It is ready for anything and would make a great retro surfing van, weekend away toy or even a everyday workshop - a rare find indeed and for sale at	£995



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54 PEUGEOT 206 GTi 1.6 HDi (Diesel) 110 3-dr. Finished in Aegean blue with **full black leather**, sports pack, alloys, a/c, multiplay cd, 44k £6195



04/53 MERCEDES ML 270 CDI (Diesel) Auto 5-dr. Finished in met silver with **full black leather**, alloys, a/c, cd, fsh, 63k £11495



05 BMW X5 Sport Auto 3.0D (Diesel) 5-dr. Finished in toledo blue with **full cream leather trim**, commis pack, climate, radio, cd, fsh, 68k £17495



54 VW T30 Shuttle SWB SE 2.5 TDI (Diesel) 9 seats Auto 5-dr. Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, fsh, 117k £11495

CONVERTIBLES

05 VOLVO C70 2.0T GT Convertible. Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, 46k £8995
03 AUDI TT Roadster (150). Finished in black with black sports cloth trim, 19inch upgrade alloys, climate control, radio, cd, 74k £8795

SPORTS/EXECUTIVE

57 VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTI (Diesel) (150bhp) 16v SRI. Met black, **full black leather**, sports seats, pas, alloys, a/c, 25k £9695
07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.6 VXR 3-dr. Finished in met black, **half leather**, alloys, a/c, cd, sports seats, 23k £10495
56 AUDI Q7 S-Line 3.0TDI (Diesel) Quattro. Finished in met black with **black leather/suede interior**, 20" alloys, climate control, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 28k £25995
06 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi+. Finished in met black with **1/2 leather sports trim**, alloys, pas, c/l, e/w, radio/cd, 38k £5295
55 SEAT Leon FR TDI (Diesel) 5-dr. Finished in black, alloys, climate, radio, cd £8995
55 FIAT Stilo 1.4 16v Active Sport 3-dr. Finished in met black, alloys, a/c, radio, cd, 43k £4195
55 FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST. Finished in red with **1/2 black leather trim**, alloys, a/c, cd, 44k £6995
05 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 2.0 GT TDI (Diesel) (140) 5-dr. Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, radio, cd, multichanger, fsh, 39k £9795
54 MERCEDES CLK 270 CDI (Diesel) Auto. Finished in met black with **full black leather**, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, 59k £12995
54 PEUGEOT 206 GTi 1.6 HDi (Diesel) 110 3-dr. Finished in Aegean blue with **full black leather**, sports pack, alloys, a/c, multiplay cd, 44k £6195
04/53 MERCEDES ML 270 CDI (Diesel) Auto 5-dr. Finished in met silver with **full black leather**, alloys, a/c, cd, fsh, 63k £11495
04 FORD Sport Ka 1.6. Finished in met. Grey with sports cloth trim, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, 30k £3695
03 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.9 GT TDI (Diesel) 5-dr. Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 67k £6295
03 MINI 1.6 Cooper. Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, cd multichanger, 46k £6995
52 MERCEDES ML 270 CDI (Diesel) Auto 5-dr. Finished in black with **1/2 black leather trim**, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, family pack, 7 seats, fsh, 85k £9495
52 PEUGEOT 206 GTi 2.0 3-dr. Finished in chin blue met, **leather/suede interior**, pas, alloys, climate, cd £3995
51 RENAULT Clio 172 Sport. Finished in black with **leather suede trim**, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, 64k £3795
Y PEUGEOT 206 GTi 2.0 3-dr. Finished in met silver, **black leather trim**, alloys, climate, cd, 36k £3495

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56 AUDI Q7 S-Line 3.0TDI (Diesel) Quattro. Finished in met black with **black leather/suede interior**, 20" alloys, climate control, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 28k £25995
06/55 CITROEN VTR Estate 1.6 HDI (Diesel). Finished in met grey, alloys, a/c, cd, 63k £6495
55 VAUXHALL Meriva Design 1.7 CDTI (Diesel) 5-dr. Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, sunroof, radio/cd, 55k £5795
55 PEUGEOT Partner Totem 1.9 (Diesel) 5-dr. Finished in met ice blue, pas, c/l, e/w, cd, 33k £5495
05 BMW X5 Sport Auto 3.0D (Diesel) 5-dr. Finished in toledo blue with **full cream leather trim**, commis pack, climate, radio, cd, fsh, 68k £17495
05 NISSAN Terrano 2.7 TDI (Diesel) LWB 5-dr SE 7 seater. Finished in black, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, 56k £5995
05 RENAULT Megane Sport Tourer Dynamique 1.9 DCI (Diesel) Estate. Met grey, alloys, climate, cd, fsh, 1 owner £4695
54 VW T30 Shuttle SWB SE 2.5 TDI (Diesel) 9 seats Auto 5-dr. Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, fsh, 117k £11495
54 MITSUBISHI L200 2.8 TD (Diesel) Warrior Double Cab Pick Up. Finished in met champagne silver with **full black leather trim**, alloys, a/c, radio, cd £5795
04/53 MERCEDES ML 270 CDI (Diesel) Auto 5-dr. Finished in met. silver with **full black leather**, alloys, a/c, cd, fsh, 63k £11495
04 MAZDA 6 2.0D TS (Diesel) Estate. Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, cd, cruise control, 73k £5495
03 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Fidji. Finished in met silver, **half suede upholstery**, alloys, a/c, radio, cd, 47k £3295
52 MERCEDES ML 270 CDI (Diesel) Auto 5-dr. Finished in black with **1/2 black leather trim**, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, family pack, 7 seats, fsh, 85k £9495
02 LAND ROVER Range Rover HSE 4.4 Auto 5-dr. Finished in oslo blue with **full navy blenheim leather trim**, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, fsh, 87k £12695
02 HONDA HR-V 4x4 1.6 Auto 3-dr. Finished in met green, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, 56k £4495

FAMILY CARS

07/57 VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTI (Diesel) 16v SRI. Met black, **full black leather sports seats**, pas, alloys, a/c, 25k £9695
06 CITROEN C4 1.4 VT Coupe. Finished in met grey, pas, r/c/l, e/w, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 37k £4995
55 VOLKSWAGEN Passat SE 1.9 TDI (Diesel) 4-dr. Finished in met silver, alloys, air con, radio/cd, 63k £7495



54 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.6 S FSI 5-dr. Finished in met grey, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, radio/cd, 6 speed, fsh, 65k £6,695



55 FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST. Finished in red with **1/2 black leather trim**, alloys, a/c, cd, 44k £6,695



05 FORD C70 2.0T GT Convertible. Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, 46k £8995



57 VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTI (Diesel) (150bhp) 16v SRI. Met black, **full black leather**, sports seats, pas, alloys, a/c, 25k £9695

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

07/56 VOLKSWAGEN Transporter T28 1.9 TDI (Diesel) SWB Van. Finished in white, side loading door, ply lined, pas, c/l, radio/cd, 46k £7995 + VAT
05 CITROEN Berlingo 600 LX (Diesel) van. Finished in white, side loading door, ply lined, pas, e/w, 59k £4295 + VAT
05 FORD Transit 260 FWD 2.0 (Diesel) SWB medium roof. Finished in blue, ply lined, side loading door, full roller roof rack, pas, remote locking, 54k £5495 + VAT
03 FORD Transit 280 SWB TD (Diesel). Day van/surf van, finished in white, side loading door, dual passenger seat, partial conversion to include bed wardrobe storage, butane gas cooker auxiliary power, mains electric hook up, cooler box, radio/cd, 64k £4495

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T MAZDA MX5 1.8 Convertible
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V MITSUBISHI Colt 1.8 Spacewagon
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52 CLIO 1.2 Authentique
Pas, cd, 70k

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07 CITROEN C2 1.4 HDi Furio. Fsh, alloys, jazzy trim, e/pack, 60mpg, £35 per year tax	£6295
06 RENAULT Modus 1.4 Dynamique. 20k, 1 owner + demo, a/con, alloys, cd player, unique styling at	£5995
55 HYUNDAI Getz 1.4 GSi 1 owner, 60k, cd player, e/w, c/l, low tax & ins, stunning at	£3995
55 MITSUBISHI Colt 1.1 CZ1 Low tax & ins, e/pack, cd player, 50mpg. Huge saving from new.	£2995
05 HONDA Accord 2.0 SE. Service history, e/pack, alloys, a/con, reverse sensors, lovely example	£4995
05 FORD Ka 1.3. Lady owner, 17k, p/steering, ideal 1st car, low tax & insurance	£3995
54 CITROEN C8 Exclusive 2.0 HDi Auto . FSH, suede interior, air con, alloys, top spec. 7 seater	£6995
54 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.8 Design. 70k, FSH, air con, alloys, cd system, superb 7 seater, please view	£4395
04 HONDA Accord 2.2 Executive CDTi. Top of the range, full leather, low road tax, fsh, in royal blue	£5995
04 HONDA Accord 2.2 CDTi Exec. 90k, fsh, 1 owner, leather, a/c, alloys, superb mpg	£5995
04 FIAT Punto 1.2 8 Valve Active. 50k, lady owner, e/pack, cd system, low tax and insurance, only	£3495
53 SMART For Two City Pulse Only 1 owner, only 40k with service history	£3995
53 CITROEN CS 2.0 HDi VTR Fsh, alloys, a/c, cd system, sports trim, super mpg at	£2995
03 FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE 70k, lady owner, e/pack, low ins	£2995
52 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 LX SW 55k, fsh, e/pack, alloys, a/c, cd, low ins, lovely estate at	£3995
52 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LX 70k, a/con, cd system, low ins	£3495
52 RENAULT Laguna 1.9 DCi Authentique, fsh, 45+ mpg, only	£2995
52 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Comfort. Two owners, 70k, FSH, alloys, CD player, walnut trim, stunning at just	£2995
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X VW Passat 1.8 20 Valve Sport. A/con, alloys, cd player, e/pack, plush interior, stunning at only	£2495
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T SAAB 93S Convertible. 77k, p/hood, leather, a/con, alloys	£3695
S MERCEDES 230 CLK Elegance Auto . AMG alloys, leather, cd system, a/con, desirable coupe	£2995
S FORD Ka 1300. 70k, p/steering, jazzy trim, lovely example, low tax & ins	£1695
S HYUNDAI 2.0 SE Coupe. P/steering, leather, e/pack, alloys, CD, clean example	£1695
P TOYOTA Celica 1.8 ST. FSH, low miles, alloys, CD system, rear spoiler, e/pack, superb in silver	£1995
P TOYOTA RAV4 2.0 Auto . 90k, lady owner, s/history, 5-door, rare 4x4 auto	£1995



53 PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDi 7 Seater
FSH, alloys, air con, e/pack, CD system, superb economy, rare find.



03 VW Polo 1.9 TDI Sport
70k, fsh, alloys, climate, cd system, sports trim, low tax, fantastic performance



54 FORD Fusion 1.1 TDCi.
50k, lady owner, e/pack, low ins, 60mpg, £35 per year road tax.



05 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 CDTi Design
2 owners, fsh, alloys, a/c, 6 speed box, plush trim, 50 mpg



04 PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDi
27k, fsh, 2 owners, alloys, a/c, cd system, roof rails, super mpg, pristine



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GEM sport

WELSH LEGENDS LAUNCH KILIMANJIRO CHARITY CLIMB

Top rugby stars aiming to hit the heights for lung cancer campaign

FIFTEEN former Wales rugby captains will be joined by current national coach Warren Gatland on an expedition to climb Mount Kilimanjaro on September, 6, and aim to raise £1m for the Velindre Cancer Centre Stepping Stones Appeal.

Current captain Ryan Jones joined predecessors Scott Gibbs, Paul Thorburn and Scott Quinnell at a Millennium Stadium launch of the 'Brains SA Captains' Climb' which also has a limited number of places for members of the public who can contribute a minimum of £10,000 to the appeal.

The initiative is the brainchild of national team sports photographer Huw Evans whose family has recently been

affected by lung cancer - the disease for which the appeal provides research funding.

"Each of the 15 former captains will be competing to raise money for the appeal, so fans can actually sponsor their favourite captain from recent history and it's quite a list of former rugby legends," said Jones.

"Or, even better than that, if you can raise the entrance money you could be reaching the heights of Africa alongside the likes of Gareth Thomas, Jonathan Davies, Scott Gibbs or Paul Thorburn".

The full list of international captains who have committed to the climb alongside Gibbs, Thorburn and Quinnell is: Gareth Thomas, Ieuan Evans, Mark Taylor, Mike Hall, Bledyn Bowen, Jonathan Davies, Rob Howley, Rob Jones, Jonathan Humphreys, Bob

Norster, Eddie Butler and Colin Charvis.

Gatland will also have coaching company with former Scarlets legend and international Phil Davies joining the party.

The total party will number around 55, including at least one camera crew, Evans himself and the Velindre Cancer Centre's Dr Jason Lester who is leading the expedition, alongside 100 Sherpas.

"The support we have had from the whole rugby community in Wales has been astounding already, the list of names on the trip is truly impressive and if that response is anything to go by we should reach the million pound figure with room to spare!"

said Evans, whose wife Sue, a non-smoker, was diagnosed with lung cancer in November 2008 and is currently in recovery.

"It's only when you are affected by a disease

like this personally that you realise it can happen to anyone of us at any time and that we need to do something more about it as a human race.

"When we told people about Sue we were overwhelmed by the response and the offers of kindness, people want to do things to help so the next step for us was to channel that energy and begin to raise money".

Dr Lester, who has treated Evans' wife, is also amazed at the response so far.

"We are raising the profile of an area of research which gets a bad press because people wrongly associate lung cancer with smoking, which isn't the case, this disease can and does affect people indiscriminately and we hope to achieve the survival rates that other cancers have already attained."

TONY'S BRIDGEND WALK ON CRUTCHES RAISES CASH FOR TENOVUS CHARITY

CELTIC CRUSADErs are delighted to have raised more than £1,600 for Cardiff-based cancer charity Tenovus during July.

The bulk of the

money was raised by

Crusaders' full-back

Tony Duggan on July 4,

when he walked from

Bridgend Designer

Outlet to the Brewery

Field on crutches.

The injured star is now wear

ing a medical boot and

is hoping to be back in

action in September.

Sponsorship for this

reached more than £900

before the day, with a

further £450 being

donated via a bucket

collection conducted by

Duggan as he did a lap

of honour around the

ground before the Celtic

Crusaders' Warrington

Wolves game.

Duggan said: "When I

knew I was going to be

out for some time with

my ankle injury I wanted

to do something challenging for charity. We

had started to build up a

good relationship with

Tenovus, and a sponsored walk on crutches

seemed to be a good

thing to do."

"I'd like to thank

David Tangata Toa for

walking with me. Also

thanks to Ian Lovell,

Sky Sports, BBC and

ITV for covering it,

Bridgend Designer

Outlet for hosting the

start and of course everyone who donated."

In addition, a Crusaders' Fans Day at the Brewery Field, organised by Damien Quinn, who holds the club record for most appearances and most points scored, raised an additional £300.

The event took place at the Brewery Field last Sunday, July 19. Crusaders' players and staff took on the fans' side, the Celtic Barbarians, in a tag rugby game and won seven tries to two.

Fans then had the opportunity to have their photo taken in the centre of a team photograph holding the ball. There were also autograph opportunities before the barbecue that was cooked by former Crusaders' team manager Gerald McCarthy.

"The weather did not put off the supporters and players turning up for high quality cuisine and top quality tag rugby," he said. "It was great to see so many familiar faces all contributing their time and money to such a worthwhile cause."

Richard Pugh from

Tenovus said: "The sup-

porters we have received



ABOVE: Tony Duggan collecting before his charity walk.

to all the fans who turned up to make it such an enjoyable day."

McCarthy, now working directly for the Brewery Field Stadium, was happy to be involved in another Crusaders event.

"The weather did not put off the supporters and players turning up for high quality cuisine and top quality tag rugby," he said. "It was great to see so many familiar faces all contributing their time and money to such a worthwhile cause."

"A big thank you to Tony Duggan for his extraordinary efforts in completing his walk on crutches, and another big thank you to Damien Quinn for organising the fans day."

Blandy-Jenkins archers scoop target awards

ON Sunday, July

26, seven archers

from Blandy-

Jenkins Archers in

Llanharan compet-

ed in the Double

American Archery

tournament at

Llandaff City

Bowmen's ground

at Castle Hill, St

Fagans, and did the

club proud!

The tournament, held

under Archery GB

(Grand National Archery

Society) rules, started at

9.30am in the wet.

The weather got

increasingly wetter and

windier as the day progressed, resulting in the competition being reluctantly shortened and finishing scores were calculated, based on performances earlier in the day.

Three Blandy-Jenkins archers (Lee Callaghan, Phil Buckley and Mike Donnelly) succeeded in winning target awards, while clubmates Nigel Jenkins took the overall gentlemen's recurve gold medal with a score of 620.

A good result in appalling conditions!

The GEM Quiz League posers

HERE are this week's 'food-for-thought':

- Execution Dock at Wapping was the traditional place of execution for specifically which type of criminal – who would be led to his death by an official carrying a silver oar?
- 'The Writing on the Wall' is featured in which book of the Old Testament?
- Which West Indian bowler, who took 249 Test wickets, played county cricket for Derbyshire and Lancashire?
- Which nightclub opened in London in 1969 and was named after a character played by Charlie Chaplin?

A RUDGE
Hon Sec, BGQL

QUIZ ANSWERS:
1. Pirate.
2. Daniel.
3. Michael Holldie.
4. Trim.

Bridgend's Rhys gives Welsh golf a boost with win over 'the old enemy'

BRIDGEND'S Challenge.

Rhys Davies gave Welsh golf a boost last week when he beat Englishman James Morrison at the third hole of a sudden-death play-off to win the SWALEC Wales

pushed his approach shot into the water hazard.

The entire day's play had been brought forward due to the threat of bad weather in the Vale in the afternoon, and it proved a good decision,

as the rain began to lash down as the play-off reached its conclusion.

However, nothing could dampen the spirits of Davies, who recorded his maiden Challenge Tour victory, and his legion of supporters who braved the elements to see him do it.

He said: "It is a fantastic feeling to win my first Challenge Tour event and, obviously, it is that little bit more extra special, given the fact that I've done it here in Wales."

The win meant that Rhys moved from 121st

on the Challenge Tour rankings at the start of the week into 20th, having pocketed the £24,000 first prize.

"I had a lot of support out there this afternoon, and even though the rain was hammering down in the play-off, there were still a lot of people around the 18th cheering me on, which was great and was nice to see.

"I actually hit two good shots up the last in regulation but I think the wind switched because I had a terrible lie in the bunker. I was thinking to myself: 'Just get it on the green and give yourself a chance' and I hit a good bunker shot. I felt confident over the putt and knocked it in from about eight feet."

"I had a similar scenario on the first play-off

hole, but my putting has been good for some time now and I holed out well.

"I was fairly confident

I wasn't going to miss that one either. Then, when I saw James put his shot in the water on the third play-off hole, I knew the victory was mine."

Davies' success was the first Welsh victory recorded on the Challenge Tour since Jamie Donaldson won the Guatemala Open in 2007 and indeed, he was the first Welsh player to win on home soil since Sion Bebb won this event at Nefyn in 2006.

Davies and Morrison finished one shot clear of Sweden's Andreas Höglberg, who carded a best of day 68 for 287, while the English duo of Matthew Cott and Steve

Surry and Greig Hutchison of Scotland shared fourth place on level par 288.

SWALEC Wales

Challenge, European

Challenge Tour, The Vale

Hotel Golf and Spa

Resort

Final results (Par

288): 286 R Davies (Wal) 77 68 70 71; J

Morrison (Eng) 73 72 70; (Davies won at the

third play-off hole); 287

A Höglberg (Swe) 70 77

72 68; 288 G Hutchison (Sco) 69 76 71 72; S

Surry (Eng) 71 71 73 73; M Cott (Eng) 68 75 73

72; 289 J Quesne (Fra) 74 73 72 70; 290 C Gane

(Eng) 72 75 71 72; C

Moriarty (Irl) 74 74 71

71; R Treis (Ger) 70 73

70 77; J Frazer (am)

(Wal) 75 72 70 73.

~

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ABOVE: Rhys Davies with his winner's trophy.